

# Rail sell-off is thrown off track

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
Transport Correspondent

Privatisation may be delayed after opponents win right to judicial review

The Government's rail privatisation programme was in jeopardy last night after opponents of the scheme won the right to a judicial review of the whole process.

Plans to franchise out the country's 25 rail lines will be delayed for several months if a court challenge, to be heard early next month, is successful. Such a postponement would not only be enormously embarrassing for the Government as its rail privatisation programme is one of its flagship policies, but it could also mean that no ser-

vices would be franchised out before the general election. Next year's sale of Railtrack may also be delayed as a result of the campaigners' victory.

The High Court case victory by Save Our Railways - formed by local authorities, rail campaigners and several rail unions - centred on proposals by the franchise director, Roger Salmon, to allow private operators to run fewer trains than the current timetable.

In court, Nigel Fleming QC, counsel for SOR, said an in-

struction from former transport secretary John MacGregor aimed at safeguarding services based on existing timetables and protecting the travelling public "has not been obeyed". The Railways Act 1993, the legislation enabling privatisation of the railways, says that in drawing up the minimum level of trains which operators must provide, Mr Salmon had to take into account the existing service level.

However, when Mr Salmon published proposals for the first two groups of lines to be privatised, they contained re-

ductions of up to a half. Mr Fleming said: "In these circumstances passenger service requirements have not been lawfully set and it would be a wrong exercise of power to let franchises on that basis."

Mr Justice Brooke agreed that SOR had an arguable case which would now be heard in full on 7 and 8 December.

Clare Short, the shadow transport secretary, said: "The Government should call an immediate halt to rail privatisation before any more taxpayers' money is wasted."

Mr Salmon has always argued that his "passenger service requirements" were not intended to represent the full timetable, but only listed those services which operators would be legally obliged to run. A spokesman in his office said: "We are not proposing cuts in services. We are saying that operators should run the specified services and they will find it commercially profitable to run the services which we have not specified. This gives them a level of flexibility which is much greater than if we specified all services in our requirements."

However campaigners have argued that Mr Salmon's plans give the opportunity for private operators to make massive cuts in services. They are also worried that there is no obligation on operators to provide amenities like buffet cars, seat reservations and first class.

The plan to privatise the railways is already running almost two years behind the original schedule set by Mr MacGregor when they were first published soon after the 1992 general election. However,

er, the first three franchises, covering South West Trains, London, Tilbury and Southend, and Great Western Railway were due to be announced by the end of the year with the hope that private operators would take over in the spring. Now, however, Mr Salmon gave an undertaking to the court that no franchise would be let without notifying Save Our Railways 48 hours in advance and clearly it is now impossible for him to let the franchises until the legal position is clear.

While the court judgement has no direct effect on the sale of Railtrack, it will have an impact on City confidence.

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See page 2

## Inquiry into 'police sex' at Cromwell St

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

An inquiry has been launched into allegations several policemen knew that young women were being abused at the home of Rosemary and Frederick West and that three officers used the house as a brothel.

A senior officer from a police force not connected to the West case will carry out the investigation, under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority.

But Douglas French, the Gloucester MP last night said the inquiry did not go far enough. He said there should be a public inquiry into the handling of the West case by police and social services and dismissed the PCA investigation as inadequate. "There needs to be a public inquiry into all aspects of this case, not just into a few narrow areas. If we are to learn from what happened we have got to bring in a wide range of expert views," Mr French said. "I have never been happy with police investigating police. Independent people should be used to investigate the complaint."

Yesterday's development follows allegations from a 33-year-old witness, known only as Sharon X for legal reasons, who claims she was at 25 Cromwell Street when police officers visited for sex. She also alleged that they used the home as an illegal "cuckoo" nest. She said this happened over the same period that the Wests were torturing and killing women and girls at the house in Gloucester.

The mother of two stayed at the West household after running away from Jordans Brook, a nearby children's home. She has named three officers who she claims used the West's home as a brothel and a drinking club. The names of a further three officers, who allegedly knew about that sex was available at the house, have also been forwarded to the PCA.

Sharon X told the Daily Express that on one occasion she was tied to a chair after having been assaulted. "The next thing I was aware of was a man in a

beige raincoat coming in. He had a policeman's uniform on underneath. The man freed me and told me to get out quickly. There was a lot of commotion."

She reportedly added: "I used to see this policeman a lot at the house. I remember his serial number, and his shirt, his uniform he always wore under that coat. I remember him and another policeman would be at the house."

During the murder investigation she was questioned several times, but was told that no one matched the name and serial number she provided. She was not called to give evidence in the trial of Rosemary West, who was convicted on Wednesday of 10 murders.

Sharon X wrote to the PCA, an independent organisation, saying that the original allegations about the police officers had not been investigated properly. The Authority forwarded the letter to Gloucestershire Constabulary. Tony Butler, the Chief Constable, yesterday voluntarily referred the case.

A statement from Gloucestershire police said: "In view of the nature of these complaints the force will be seeking to appoint a senior officer from another force area to conduct the inquiry."

However, the use of a police inquiry overseen by the PCA was criticised yesterday. A spokeswoman for Liberty, the civil rights organisation, said: "The PCA is not wholly independent or accountable - police officers are still investigating the police."

Chris Mullin, Labour MP, a well known campaigner against miscarriages of justice, added: "The PCA should be given the powers to do its job properly - this should include ensuring that inquiries are conducted by people who are not police officers."

It also emerged yesterday that Gloucestershire social services used private detectives to check up on Frederick and Rosemary West while their children were in care. The detectives were used in 1993 by the council which was concerned that the couple were breaching a court order.

## The British ambassador to Argentina



The Princess of Wales's self-appointed new role as roving ambassador for Britain began with mixed fortunes yesterday. In Buenos Aires, she lunched with the President of Argentina, Carlos Menem, seen here with his daughter. But she was heckled by the mother of a sailor killed during the Falklands War who shouted: "Bitch! You bitch! ... You daughter of a thousand whores. Go away."

Saturday Story, page 19

## Howard opposed racism law 'to protect Rushdie'

SARAH HELM  
Brussels

Fears that Salman Rushdie, the author of *Satanic Verses*, could have been charged with religious discrimination, may have been a key factor in persuading Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to block Europe's new anti-racism laws, it emerged yesterday.

A secret British draft, presented to European ministers on Thursday, shows Britain's main objection to the plan was the call for a ban on incitement to hatred on the grounds of religion. Mr Rushdie outraged Muslims with his attack on Islam in the *Satanic Verses*. Britain, unlike many of its European partners, has no law against religious discrimination and has defended the author's right to free speech.

The draft British document, presented to justice ministers before their acrimonious meeting in Brussels on Thursday, shows Mr Howard was prepared to consider changes to British law to harmonise British and European measures against "incitement to violence or racial hatred" on the grounds of "colour, race or national or ethnic origin."

The resolution, backed by Britain's 14 partners, included "religion" in the list of grounds for discrimination, but British drafters scotched the word from their proposed list. The possibility that a law against religious discrimination could have brought Rushdie, or others who speak out against a religion, before the British courts, is believed by Brussels officials to have been one reason why Britain opposed the measure at the last minute.

The Home Office last night denied the Rushdie case had been a factor, saying Britain did not deem it necessary to pass a law against religious discrimination. Whether Rushdie would have faced prosecution had the European proposal passed was "hypothetical", a spokesman said.

Mr Howard has been criticised for blocking the European measure, which included proposals to outlaw the excusing or denial of crimes against humanity, in particular the Holocaust. However, the secret draft, obtained by the *Independent*, shows Britain was prepared "to consider" introducing a law to

ban "denial" of crimes against humanity if the action was degrading to people of a certain colour, race, national, or ethnic origin. However, Britain again refused to consider making "Holocaust denial" illegal if it was degrading to the people on the grounds of religion.

Jewish leaders yesterday protested to the Home Secretary, who is also Jewish, over his action. The President of the Board of Deputies Eldred Tabachnik said it was "deeply regrettable and unfortunate that the British government has chosen to veto this initiative".

Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said Mr Howard "will not have enhanced Britain's reputation as a country deeply concerned about racism".

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## IN BRIEF

**Children of God ruling**  
A grandmother has lost her battle for custody of her three-year-old grandson to his mother, a member of the controversial Children of God sect now known as the movement assured a High Court judge that its abusive and sex-obsessed past had been buried. Page 3

**Dangerous cars**  
Citroen 2CVs and Dynas, older Toyota Carinas and Vauxhall Carlton should be avoided by drivers who want to avoid crashes, according to an analysis of accident statistics. Page 8

**Today's weather**  
Showers across the whole of the UK, continuing through the night. Page 2

**Centre Point listed**  
A works' canteen in Dagenham, a Woolworth's branch in Canterbury, and the Centre Point skyscraper in London were among 21 modern buildings given listed status. Page 5

**Closure last year**  
The closure last year of the abbey's private school for boys left the 25 resident monks at Belmont with a giant unused refectory next door. With bills for running the abbey rising, the decision to turn it into a banqueting hall was an act of economic necessity. "Benedictines have always

been great ones for hospitality and inviting guests to stay throughout the centuries," Father Nicholas said. "We've had a guest house for some time. When we closed our school, we were left with a redundant refectory and this was a way of paying the bills. We had to face the commercial facts of life."

An advertising campaign describes the hall as a "new place for a party". The monks are scrutinising all applications carefully. "I don't think any rave-ups will be the order of the day. We don't want to jeopardise the tranquil

## Hard-up monks get in party habit

LOUISE JURY

It is the newest novelty venue on the party circuit. The monks of Belmont Abbey, near Hereford, are throwing open their doors for wedding receptions, dinner-dances and disco.

The closure last year of the abbey's private school for boys left the 25 resident monks at Belmont with a giant unused refectory next door. With bills for running the abbey rising, the decision to turn it into a banqueting hall was an act of economic necessity.

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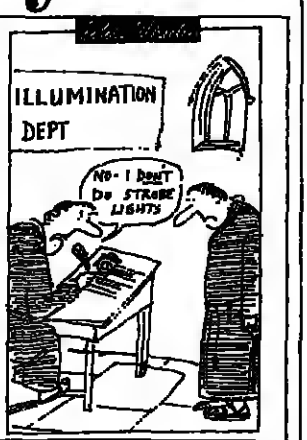
been great ones for hospitality and inviting guests to stay throughout the centuries," Father Nicholas said. "We've had a guest house for some time. When we closed our school, we were left with a redundant refectory and this was a way of paying the bills. We had to face the commercial facts of life."

An advertising campaign describes the hall as a "new place for a party". The monks are scrutinising all applications carefully. "I don't think any rave-ups will be the order of the day. We don't want to jeopardise the tranquil

nature of our life." So far they have had a 25th wedding anniversary and a couple of wedding receptions, ideal with the abbey church and beautiful grounds near by.

The hospitality venture is in the hands of former hotelier Paul Rye and his team. But the monks will not actually be partying themselves. "Most of our monks will be tucked up in bed. We're employing a professional staff," Father Nicholas Wetz said.

"You won't find monks actually playing the records on the turntable."



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news

## Budget 'leak' dampens tax-cut hopes

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

A 1p cut in the 25p basic rate of income tax was being forecast by senior Whitehall sources last night in a clear attempt to damp down expectations of bigger cuts in taxes in next week's Budget.

The Treasury was last night accused by Labour of deliberately leaking the report as a smokescreen for Kenneth Clarke's Budget, but the Treas-

sury denied being the source. The pre-Budget speculation underlined the fear among leading Tories that the Chancellor and the Prime Minister have fuelled expectations of cuts of up to 3p in the pound, destroying the impact of the package to be unveiled on Tuesday.

The markets responded badly to the earlier leaks, as the pound slumped against foreign currencies, and ministers are keen to avoid speculation causing a further weakening.

The Chancellor will face renewed pressure from Tory MPs over the weekend to go for tax cuts of at least £5bn, financed by cuts in public expenditure.

Whitehall sources warned that room for manoeuvre was severely limited by spiralling public borrowing.

Officials broke the traditional pre-Budget silence by contacting a national news agency, the Press Association, to damp down rising expectations of a tax give-away. The sources said 1p

off the current 25p basic rate could be accompanied by higher personal allowances and modest reductions in inheritance and capital gains tax.

John Townend, chairman of the Tory finance committee, warned that limiting the tax give-away to £3bn could cost the party the next election. "At £10bn I think we would win the next election, at about £6bn we could be in with a chance, but if it is only £2bn or £3bn we can forget it," he said. "I would like

to see increased allowances for families and old people, an expansion of the 20p rate of income tax so that it progressively becomes the standard rate, and 25p the start of the higher rate, a package for housing and a phased reduction in inheritance tax and capital gains tax."

But the Whitehall sources went out of their way to dismiss as "hopelessly optimistic" speculation that Mr Clarke had up to £8bn at his disposal. Public borrowing is heading for a substantial overshoot of the Treasury's £23.6bn target this year and was said to be severely limiting room for manoeuvre.

The shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, said: "Mr Clarke has admitted that the Tories have raised tax by the equivalent of 7p in the pound and only a reduction of that scale could undo the 21 tax rises the Tories have been responsible for."

Labour has pledged that it would bring in a 10p starter rate for income tax, cut VAT on fuel to 5 per cent and levy a windfall tax on the profits of the privatised utilities to fund a jobs and training programme.

The 10p tax target has upset some Shadow Cabinet members, who regard it as another shift to the right, and Brian Manning, the Tory chairman, sought to exploit the divisions, by claiming in a speech that Labour was "coming apart at the seams" over its plans.

Scotch whisky plea, page 7

Postal disruption: Action over saving second deliveries now threatens to spread to English sorting depots

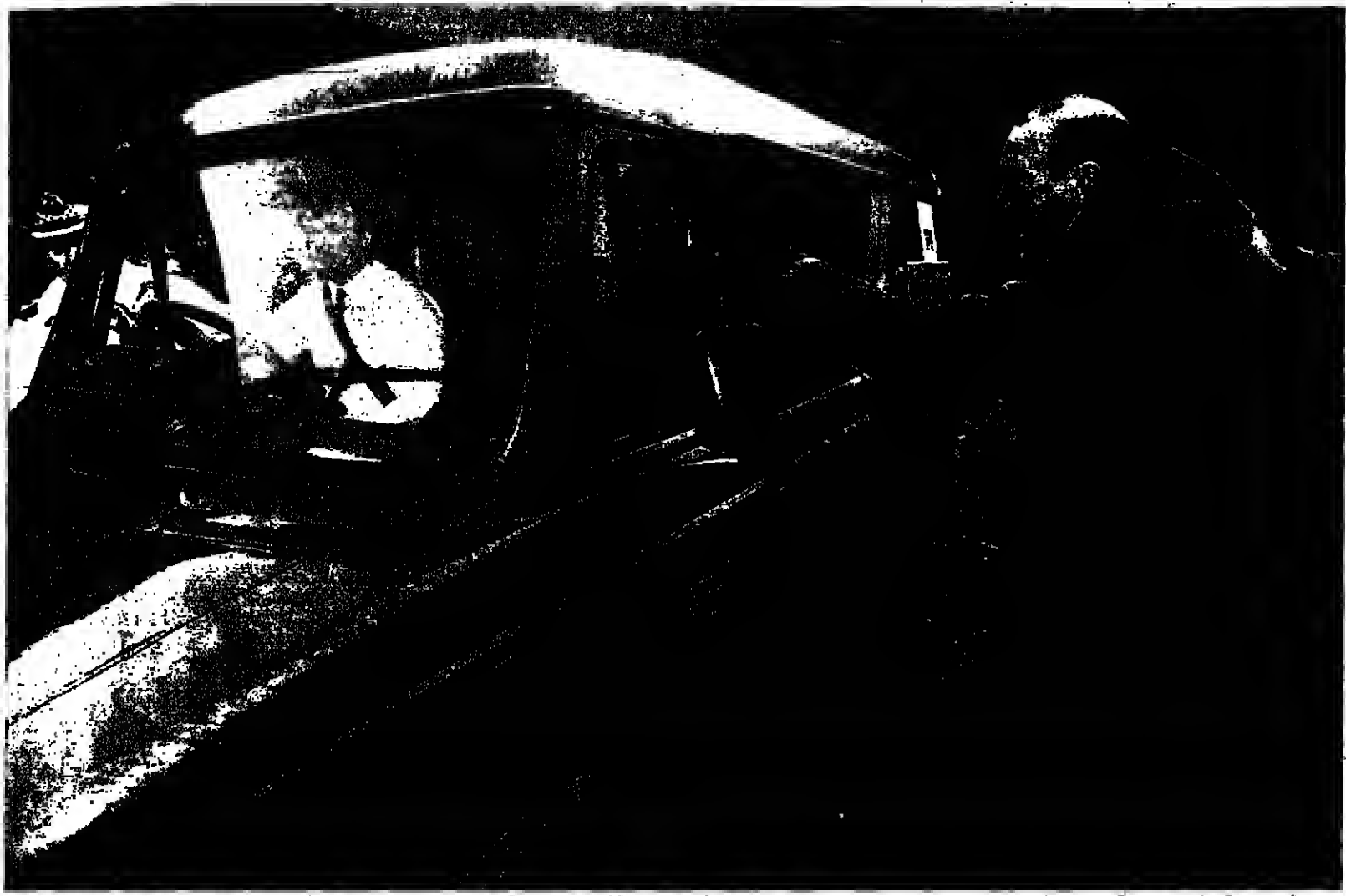
## Wildcat strikes could spread

The widespread wildcat stoppages by postal workers in Scotland over new working practices intensified yesterday and threatened to spread to England, writes Barrie Clement.

Up to 5,000 of the 12,000 Royal Mail employees north of the border were estimated to be taking indefinite unofficial strike action in protest at alleged attempts to phase out second deliveries.

Yesterday increasing quantities of mail were being diverted to sorting offices in north-west England and union sources reported anger among mail workers there, who threatened to boycott the letters.

Leaders of the Communication Workers' Union repeated their plea to the Scottish wildcat strikers, mainly in the central part of the country, to end the action. They urged their English members to keep working. The unions concerned it could be the subject of legal proceedings, but in Scotland it was also keen that services were working so that it could begin its official postal ballot.



Mail anger: Postal workers demonstrating outside Hamilton post office near Glasgow

Photograph: Gaetan Cotton

## Anger at report on water services

JAMES CUSICK

After a summer of drought, and amid a deluge of complaints, Britain's water industry regulator Ofwat yesterday angered a consumer group with the claim that "water companies continue to improve customer service".

In the week that saw drought-hit Yorkshire Water resort to a £2m per week tanker operation to ferry water from Northumberland, the message contained in Ofwat's report, 1994-95 Levels of Service, was branded "severely insensitive" by watchdog body Yorkshire Water Watch.

The report details the performance of the 30 water companies in England and Wales, and states that in dealing with billing queries and written complaints, there have been improvements.

Ian Byatt, the Director General of Water Services, reports that where performance, against one or more measure, falls short of what customers can reasonably expect, he "will be discussing with the companies concerned - Mid Kent and Yorkshire - their plans for improvement".

Despite the threat of water cuts, Yorkshire Water scores two "very goods" in the report's analysis of its ability to respond to billing queries and in responding to written complaints.

Diana Scott, one of the leading activists of Yorkshire Water Watch, said: "This whole report shows the insensitivity and lack of real power of Ofwat. What is the point of praising the response time of written complaints if the answers they contain mention nothing about what the companies will owe to about leaking pipes, poor investment, or stresses suffered by customers."

In yesterday's report, two companies, south Staffordshire and York, received the top classification for the second year running.

## IN BRIEF

## Drug barons get 30 years each

Two drug barons were each jailed for 30 years yesterday for international £125m cocaine smuggling. The sentences are believed to be the longest imposed in England for drugs offences.

George Sansom, 42, was in charge of marketing the drugs in Britain while Coleman Muller, 53, masterminded the operation which began in June 1992. Six men were acquitted at Southwark Crown Court in December 1993 of being knowingly concerned in the plot.

At Snaresbrook Crown Court in east London yesterday Judge Andrew Brooks told the pair, both of south London, he had a duty to protect young people who may be tempted by the "deadly drug".

## Lord Owen elected

Sir David Owen, former leader of the Social and Democratic Party, has been elected Chancellor of the University of Liverpool. He replaces Sir Alastair Pilkington who died on 5 May.

## Prison officer jailed

A prison officer who caused a massive security scare at the top security jail Wormwood Scrubs, London, was jailed for four years at Knightsbridge Crown Court. Haydn Southam, 59, had sold a former inmate clay imprints of strategic keys for £5,000.

## Children's inquest

The deaths of seven children in a fire at their home in Wrexham, Clwyd, on 10 August, were accidental, a coroner ruled. The most likely cause of the fire, which started in a foam-filled rocking chair, was said to be children playing with matches or a cigarette lighter.

## 'Express' editors

Richard Addis, associate editor at the Daily Mail, has been appointed editor of the Daily Express, and Susan Douglas moves from Sunday Times deputy editor to edit the Sunday Express.

## Stuck in time

A set of temporary traffic lights erected 16 years ago near Bala, Gwynedd, is still in use today, the Government has revealed in a Commons written reply.

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COLIN BROWN and HEATHER MILLS  
London  
SARAH HELM  
Brussels

A row over European Union moves to halt the rising tide of racism and racial violence last night threatened to leave John Major embarrassingly isolated at next month's Madrid summit of European leaders.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, faced a storm of criticism yesterday after blocking the measures - which include making it an offence to deny the existence of the Holocaust - at a European Council of Ministers meeting.

Jewish leaders yesterday protested to Mr Howard, who is also Jewish, over his action, warning that literature denying the Holocaust was already circulating in British schools.

Mr Howard was standing firm, but Anita Gradin, the European Home Affairs Commissioner, warned the proposals would be put on the agenda for the Madrid summit. She said pan-European measures were needed to combat racism.

Mr Major has committed himself throughout his political career to opposing racism and would be embarrassed if he were forced to veto anti-racist

measures. But Mr Howard is a Euro-sceptic and his critics privately suggested yesterday his veto was partly motivated by a refusal to allow Britain to be forced to accept European harmony on home affairs measures.

Immigrants' groups described the decision as "shameful and immoral" while the Board of Deputies of British Jews said it was "deeply regrettable" that Britain had vetoed plans which would have included making it an offence to deny the Holocaust, and introduced tighter laws on incitement to race hatred.

The Home Secretary - already accused of playing the

race card in pushing through tough and controversial restrictions on asylum seekers and immigrants - was accused of further risking race relations in this country. By refusing to sign up to the package, he was seen particularly by immigrant, refugee and black organisations as denying any degree of balance to the new tough immigration policy.

Jack Straw, shadow Home Secretary, said Mr Howard "will not have enhanced Britain's reputation as a country deeply concerned about racism".

Mr Howard said Britain already had highly effective race

relations laws and that many of the EU measures were "unnecessary" and "counter-productive".

Although he said he was prepared to carry on talking with Britain's EU partners about the plan, he told BBC radio, he would not countenance any fresh EU legislation in an area where Britain already had its own laws in place.

"The laws we have in this country, we have developed over the years. We have had them in place longer than most other countries in Europe, they are more extensive than most other countries in Europe and our race relations are better than

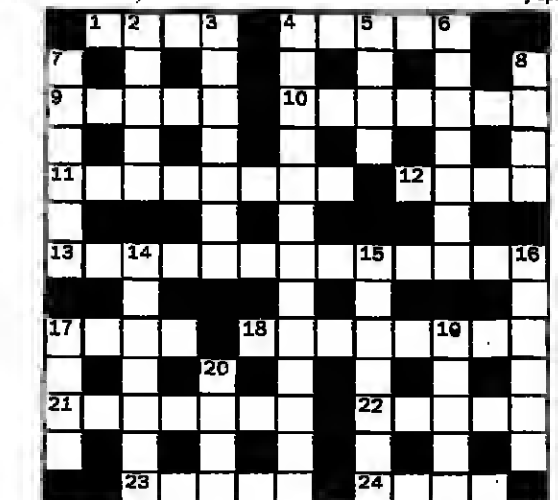
in most other countries in Europe."

However, the President of the Board of Deputies, Eldred Tabachnik, said that as racist groups can move without hindrance throughout the EU, it was vital there was a common European policy to tackle it. "We find it deeply regrettable that the British government has chosen to veto this initiative. Britain is not immune from developments in Europe and should not allow itself to be isolated on this vital issue."

## concise crossword

No. 2841 Saturday 25 November

By Spurling



## ACROSS

- Shore bird (4)
- Herb (5)
- Record (5)
- Stowaway (7)
- Great (8)
- Exam success (4)
- Tiffs (4-9)
- Repair (4)
- Hairdresser (8)
- Mobile home (7)
- Religious teacher (5)
- European capital (5)
- Tidings (4)

## DOWN

- Sheer (5)
- Shoer of horses (7)
- Topics of conversation (7-6)
- System of meditation and exercises (4)
- Flow out (7)
- Fewerish (6)
- 13th or 15th of Roman month (4)
- Warm spot (7)
- Crocus (7)
- Dirty (6)
- Club (4)
- Joint (5)
- State (4)

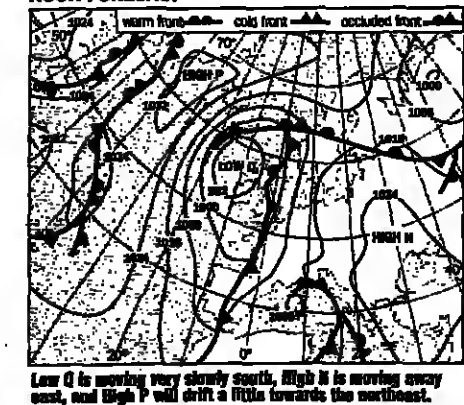
Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

Across: 1 Fint, 2 Alley, 3 Optic, 4 Cabaret, 5 Air raid, 6 Rum, 7 Con, 8 De Facto, 9 Epidemic, 10 De Facto, 11 De Facto, 12 De Facto, 13 Con, 14 De Facto, 15 De Facto, 16 De Facto, 17 De Facto, 18 De Facto, 19 De Facto, 20 De Facto.

## Notes

## weather

## NOON FORECAST



Low 1 is moving very slowly south. High 2 is moving away west, and High 3 will drift a little towards the northwest.

## WORLD WEATHER

Agnes	2:38 PM	Thunder	20.81	Derby	2:32 PM	2:32 PM
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Cult ruling: Judge refuses custody claim for three-year-old after assurances that sect's links with sex abuse have been broken

# Grandmother loses battle for 'child of God'

REBECCA FOWLER

A grandmother has lost her battle for custody of her three-year-old grandson to his mother, a member of the controversial Children of God sect now known as the Family, after leaders of the movement assured a High Court judge its abusive and sex-obsessed past had been buried.

In a ruling handed down yesterday, Lord Justice Ward accepted the 28-year-old mother's claims that the sect, which has 9,000 members worldwide, had genuinely denounced the pornographic teachings of its

original leader, David Berg, in new guidelines. The Family was notorious for excessive sexual behaviour including sharing spouses, encouraging prostitution to win new members (known as "flirty fishing"), and exposing children to violent beatings and sex.

"They have come in from the cold," Lord Justice Ward said. "They carry some mud on their coat, but if they choose they can wash it off. They can sit at society's supper table, eccentric guests perhaps, but welcome. We must all be ready to welcome the return of the prodigal son."

The child, known only as S, was born into the Family, which his mother joined when she was travelling. Her own mother, who lives in Kenya, was determined that he should not be brought up by the movement in one of its six British communes, and has waged a three year campaign to raise him herself.

Lord Justice Ward has angered former members and cult experts by his decision to allow the boy to remain with his mother, on the understanding she puts his welfare before her devotion to the Family. His ruling followed in-depth witness accounts of the corrupt excess-

es of life in the movement by former members, alongside advice from social workers and psychiatrists who visited the commune where the child lived.

The Family, which has been fighting to improve its image with the outside world for a decade, welcomed the decision last night. "We are delighted because we always knew this was never about one child," said Rachel Scott, a spokeswoman for the Family. "If the judge had found this not a decent living environment for a child, on the basis of past literature and allegations, that puts all our children at risk."

The boy's mother was also instructed to ensure he is properly educated; that she forbids anyone to inflict corporal punishment on him or subject him to periods of isolation; and allows him regular contact with relatives, including his grandmother.

Leaders of the movement had already rewritten guidelines for members to denounce past behaviour following the death of Mr Berg last year. They were circulated among the movement's 300 British members in February, and a copy of the charter was given to the judge to demonstrate how the

Family had changed. A newsletter circulated to members from leaders including Mr Berg's widow, Maria, also included a "prophecy" from him, denouncing their former excesses from the grave.

It said: "Dad is obviously sorry for any harm that was caused to anyone. Some young people got hurt by inappropriate sexual behaviour on the part of adults, and in 1986 he and I moved to ban all such acts."

But cult experts and former members of the Family expressed concern at the outcome. "I just can't see there is any way that you can watch over

people 24 hours a day," said Audrey Chaytor, chairman of FAIR, a cult-monitoring organisation. "I am pleased to hear the judge say that the wrongs of the past have been stamped out, but I will wait to see evidence that is the case."

"Everyone has to be given the chance to put their past aside, and it is wrong to blacken someone's name permanently, but I have never heard anyone from the Family condemning the past," she said.

The Cult Information Centre expressed anger. "You can't just change your name and expect everyone to believe every-

thing is suddenly okay," said Ian Haworth, general secretary. "I am as concerned about the welfare of that child as I ever was, and it will take some time for people like me to be convinced by this change."

Kristina Jones, 19, who left the movement seven years ago, was dismayed, having acted as a witness in the case. "I'm furious because I am convinced they haven't changed in their hearts," she said.

"Why should we believe they are suddenly telling the truth, when they have hidden what they are doing from the world for so long?"

## 'Original hippie' preached the law of love

David Berg, the maverick founder of the Children of God, dubbed the "original hippie", first took his anti-establishment from of Christianity to California in the Sixties, writes Rebecca Fowler.

It was here that the son of preachers began to build his worldwide empire, creating the movement's first communes.

Mr Berg built up his communal movement among followers who called him David Moses or Dad, and obeyed every order he gave. His endless writings, known as the *Mo Letters*, became the basis of their regime, and they would read them tirelessly.

They included gaudy pamphlets and the notorious "Law of Love" that encouraged members to share husbands and wives, invited women to prostitute themselves for new members, and condoned sex among children.

Among the most infamous images is a picture of a naked woman sitting astride a man, with the caption: "Receiving God is like sexually going all the way."

The basic tenet of his law was that, with the exception of sodomy, there was nothing wrong with sex, "whatever it's with, no matter what age or what relative or what manner", so long as it was done in love and not lust.

The movement spread across 50 countries from Europe to America, India and Australasia. As investigations into the practices of the Family gathered apace from London to Argentina, focusing on the treatment of the sect's children, Mr Berg went into hiding.

He still ruled over his flock of 9,000 members, including 3,000 children, with complete authority.

When he died last year, aged 75, the Family wrote glowing eulogies to his memory, and the *Mo Letters* still form the basis of their faith.

But Mr Berg's teachings were already being curbed by his flock in the 1980s.

As the movement fell into



Father figure: David Berg, who was called 'David Moses', or 'Dad', by followers

deeper disrepute, it dropped prostitution in 1987 and banned encouraging sex with or among children.

Mr Berg, who went into hiding in 1971, left the movement in the hands of his widow Maria, also in hiding. She delivered a prophecy from him last year apologising for any actions that might have hurt members

of the cult, especially children. This weekend, members of the Family said publicly for the first time that they denounced the most salacious teachings from Mr Berg.

However, they have retained the spirit of his letters on open sexual relationships. "He himself was wrong to have written in that way, and we

do renounce his teachings," said Gideon Scott, a spokesman for the Family.

"We have rules that say you cannot have any sexual contact with anybody outside. But we believe that loving relationships are covered by God's injunction to do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

## Family behind closed doors

The communes that house the Children of God, now known as the Family, are invisible to outsiders. But within the walls of the discreet properties that spread from Kent to Scotland, a movement that has had one of the worst reputations of any religious cult lives out its day to day life, writes Rebecca Fowler.

Every detail of its regime has been laid out in endless writings by the movement's American founder, David Berg, dubbed Moses David. The Family now has 9,000 members in 50 countries who follow his writings, known as the *Mo Letters*.

The cult first fell into disrepute in the 1970s when his pamphlets promoting the "Law of Love" were exposed as pornographic tracts. But in contrast to the sexual liberalism there was also strict discipline, spartan living conditions and regular beatings for children, according to former members.

Among those who recalls the harshness of the regime is Kristina Jones, 19, who escaped from the movement when she was 12, and was awarded £5,000 compensation for being sexually abused by members from the age of three.



Sea change: A new sect member being baptised into the Children of God at Brighton in the 1970s

"We were constantly moved round the communes so we didn't form close bonds with anyone, and we couldn't question anything," Miss Jones said.

"I was abused emotionally and physically, often hit on the head with belts and knuckles for doing nothing at all, and sex was rare. We had no idea of what the world outside was like."

So what has changed to convince Lord Justice Ward, who ruled yesterday that a mother could raise her grandson within the cult against the wishes of his grandmother, that the Family is a safe and happy environment in which to raise a child.

The movement was already concerned about the state of its image by the late 1980s. The

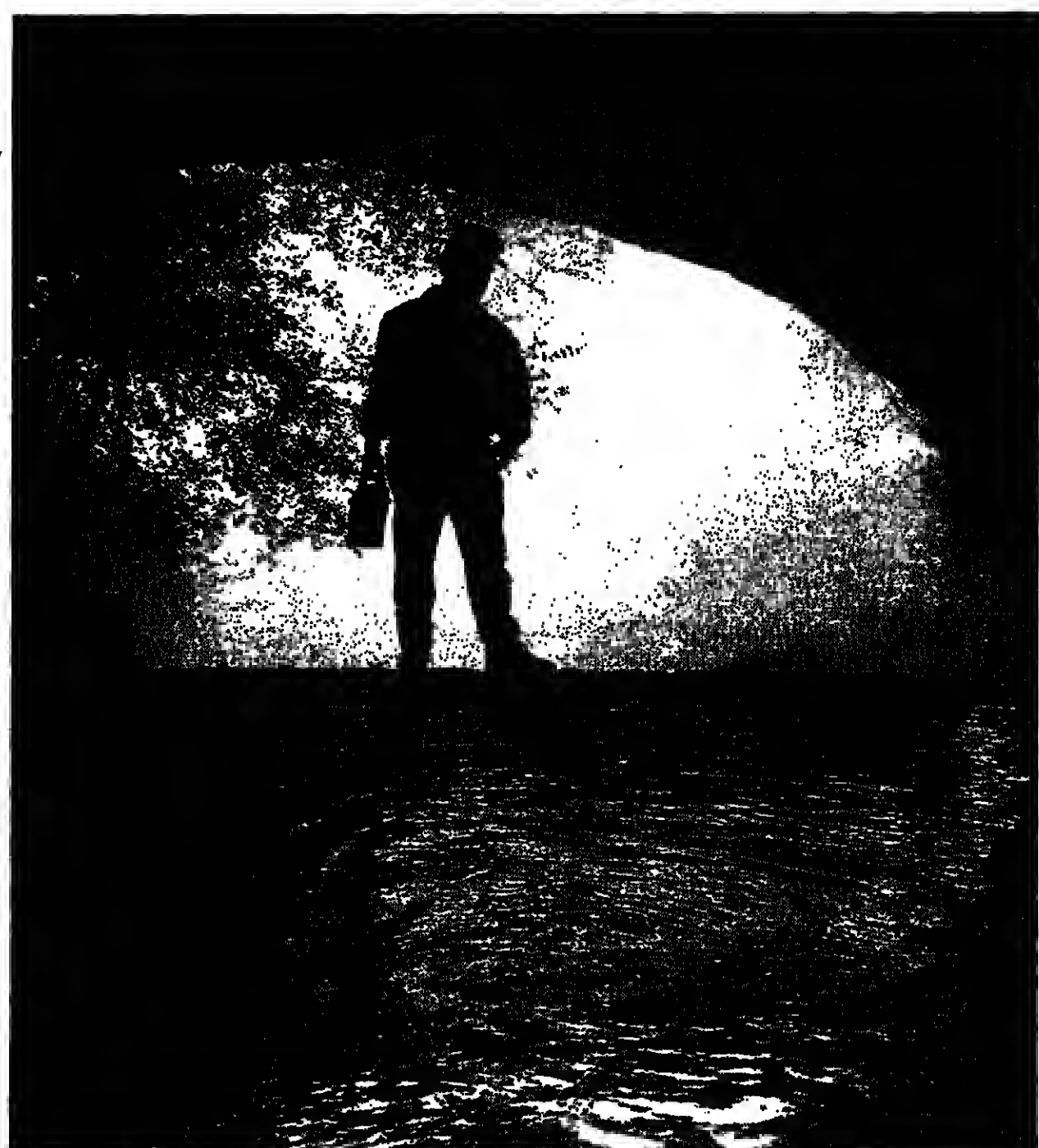
practice of "flirty fishing", or getting new members to pay women members for sex, was dropped, and in 1985 the cult says that it ruled anyone involved in sex with children would be thrown out.

In 1991 the concern was revealed when internal documents were leaked that instructed members to destroy any "explicit" videos or pictures in their possession.

The Family opened its doors to childcare experts this year who visited the commune where the boy lives, showed them the dormitories where the children slept, the classes where they were taught, and the new guidelines, aimed at rewriting the wrongs of the past.

"A lot of people believe the *Mo Letters* are rife with sex, but that's only a small portion of them," said Rachel Scott, a spokeswoman for the Family.

"We're only renouncing those parts that led people to believe interaction with minors was okay. That was wrong and should never have been written, but we are delighted the judge has recognised that we offer our children happy and safe homes."



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In the Sunday Review

The most wonderful food in the world: 12 pages of epicurean delights

Plus: Nicholas Barber meets Ben Elton

In Real Life

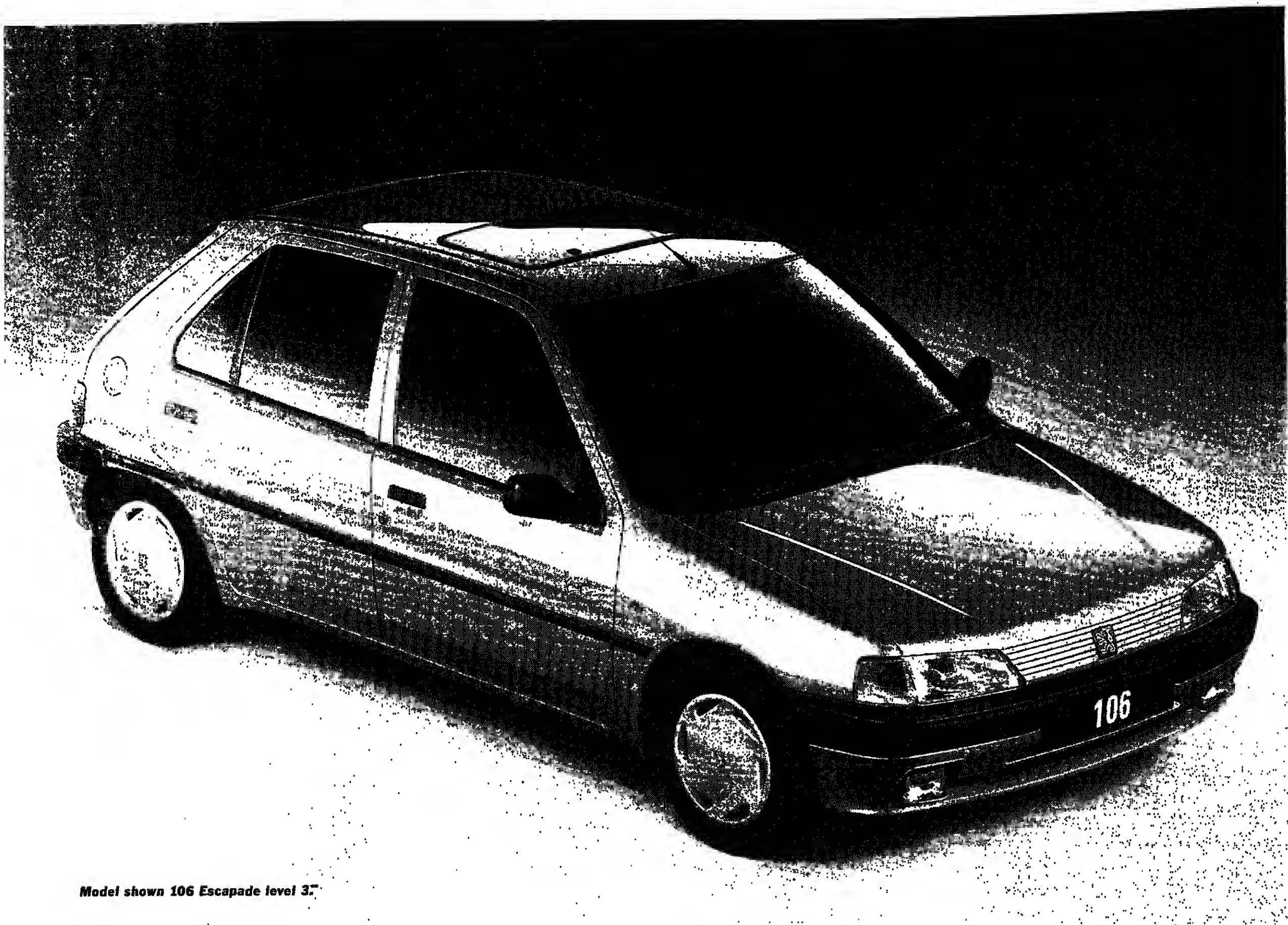
Rise of the ÜberBabes Plus: when a teacher loves a sixth-former

Geraldine Bedell on Susie Orbach, therapist to the Princess of Wales

Ian Jack on five years of John Major



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# Skyscrapers listed as towering achievement

NICHOLAS SCHOON

A works' canteen in Dagenham, a Woolworth's branch in Canterbury, and the Centre Point skyscraper in London were among 21 modern buildings given listed status yesterday.

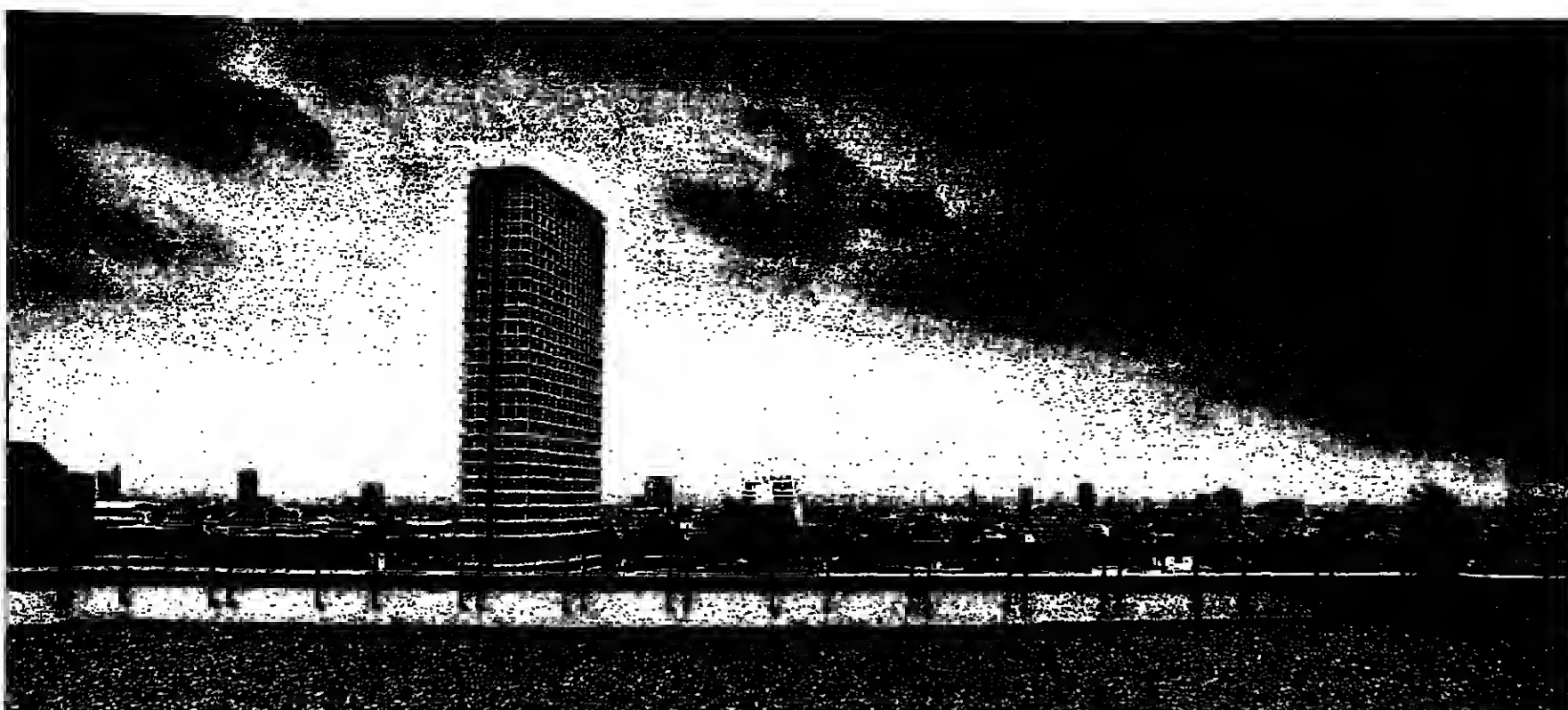
Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, admitted she didn't "particularly care for" some of the buildings she listed, including several 1960s railway stations and a signal box in Birmingham. But she liked Centre Point, which she described as exciting and innovative. Listed status gives the buildings, nearly all from the 1950s and 60s, strong protection against demolition.

Mrs Bottomley chose the buildings, all of them commercial or industrial, from a final list of 35 contenders put forward by English Heritage, the Government's conservation watchdog.

They are a tiny fraction of the thousands of factories, warehouses and office blocks built in the post-war boom years, when steady economic growth, rampant property speculation and the opportunity provided by hundreds of bomb-sites combined to transform Britain's cityscapes. The chosen few are meant to have the greatest architectural and historical interest and merit.

For the first time, members of the public were asked to comment on English Heritage's choice of buildings before Mrs Bottomley made up her mind. More than 2,000 letters were sent in.

Much disliked by the public, according to English Heritage, was Eros House in Catford,



Highly rated: Centre Point, at the junction of Oxford Street and Charing Cross Road (Photograph: Edward Sykes) and the CIS Building in Manchester, which were given listed status yesterday (Photograph: News Team)



south London, designed by Owen Luder, the current president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. This large early 1960s office block was put forward for listing, but not chosen by Mrs Bottomley.

"Ultimately, it's all very subjective," said Mr Luder yesterday. "If you go by majority vote, some of the best buildings in the world would never have been built. We should only pre-

serve a few of the very finest because cities are organic and ever-changing - they should not become fossilised."

Some of the buildings which did not make the final list are likely to be demolished. The property company that owns Marathon House, an office building in Alderman Street, central London, has already made a planning application which envisages knocking down

the 1963 building "of considerable delicacy," according to English Heritage.

But the strange, 120ft tall lead shot tower in Bristol has been spared. It was built to make lead shotgun pellets - drops of molten lead fell down it, solidifying on the way - but is now redundant. Owners Shell UK had sought planning permission to demolish it, but will have to think again.

Some owners were dismayed at having their buildings listed. Heinz said it was "deeply disappointed" at the choice of its headquarters at Hillingdon, west of London, because of the constraints it placed on its "commercial freedom to develop the site."

The number of post-war listed buildings in Britain now stands at 154 - out of a total of 443,000 listed properties.

## Architectural additions to the broad mix of modern classics

Seven of the 21 listed buildings are in central London: 100 Pall Mall; New Zealand House in the Haymarket; Millbank Tower; the former offices of architects Yorke, Rosenberg and Mardell in the City; 41 Albermarle Street; Sakers, Sloane Square; and Centre Point.

The others are the CIS Building in Peter Street, Manchester; Carr and Co in Shirley, Birmingham; the Head Offices of Pilkington Glassworks in St Helens; the Bird's Eye offices in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey; the Heinz Headquarters Building in Hillingdon; the Woolworth store in St George's Street, Canterbury; the Rhone-Poulenc canteen in Dagenham; the John Lewis warehouse in Stevenage; the Lead Shot tower in Cheese Lane, Bristol; Birmingham New Street signal box; and four railway stations - Manchester Road, Harlow Town, Coventry, and the booking hall at Barking.

## 'Time bandit' angers Scots by daylight plan

COLIN BROWN and JOHN ARLIDGE

The Scots were yesterday waking up with anger to the plans of a southern Tory MP to put them on a different time-scale from the rest of Britain.

Sir Hector Monro, a former Scottish Office minister, warned that John Butterfill's private member's bill, which seeks to move Britain on to Central European Time ending the practice of putting the clocks back in winter, would threaten the Union.

"The 72 Scots MPs will vehemently oppose it. It will create tensions," Sir Hector Monro, Conservative MP for Dumfries, said.

Sir Hector rejected as "ludicrous" a compromise offered by Mr Butterfill to allow Scotland to continue putting the clocks back, creating two time zones in the United Kingdom. He said: "If you go by majority vote, some of the best buildings in the world would never have been built. We should only pre-



Monro: Warns against plan

Dumfries and another for Carlisle.

Scottish ministers are also lining up against the Bill, which would provide an extra hour of daylight in the evening but make winter mornings darker. Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, who will announce on Thursday - St Andrew's Day - government plans for devolving more powers to Scottish MPs, said he strongly opposed Mr Butterfill's ideas.

In Scotland where, if Mr Butterfill's proposals were approved, most areas would remain dark until 10am, nationalist politicians ridiculed the Tory backbencher as "a time bandit threatening Scotland with daylight robbery".

But Mr Butterfill, MP for Bournemouth West, strongly defended the Bill. "It's not a bill proposed by an English MP. It's backed by 130 organisations, including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, the Police Federation, the Sports Council, Age Concern, the British Tourist Authority and the CBI."

He said it could save an estimated 140 lives in accidents each year, and £250m a year in energy. "Both of those would be particularly important in Scotland because there are proportionately more accidents in the early afternoon and evening... and they have much harsher weather," he said they would also benefit from an extra £1,000m a year in tourism.

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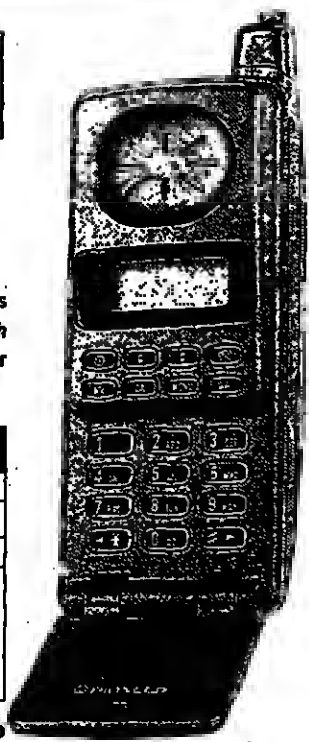
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## news

**Irish divorce referendum:** Campaign against liberalisation prevailing despite town's curious 300-year-old Protestant enclave

## Catholic whisper enough to drown Calvin's legacy

ALAN MURDOCH  
Portllington, County Laois

The electoral register in yesterday's divorce referendum was not alone in showing Portllington has a past different to other provincial towns.

Gravestones and Great War plaques feature family names such as Blanc, Champ, LaCombre and Tabuteau, highlighting the legacy of an earlier conflict. French Huguenots and their descendants, refugees from persecution at home who fled to Holland and joined the army of William of Orange, settled here in the 1690s.

Their leader, the Marquis de Revignie, "went native" as "The Earl of Galway". Thus was born a curious enclave of French Calvinism in the heart of Catholic Ireland.

Inside "the French" church of St Paul's in the town, built first by Huguenots in 1696, Church of Ireland minister, the Reverend Scott Peoples, pauses before commenting on 5 per

cent Protestant population in the vicinity.

He is wary of Irish party leaders' warnings this week that a "majoritarian" imposition of Catholic views on divorce on religious minorities in the Republic will send dangerous signals to Northern Ireland Unionists, at a time when Dublin is seeking the political accommodation of a Catholic nationalist minority there.

"I'm not so concerned by that, because the community we're in has to express the beliefs it holds..."

Like many he recognises that arguments, while intense, have been more controlled than during the 1986 referendum. Religious affiliation locally, he suggests, is now less significant than social distinctions.

In the neat town centre with its 18th century stone houses, the referendum seems muted. What little propaganda is visible is all against divorce. In the main street is a solitary "scare" poster, warning "You Will Pay!"

10 per cent higher tax if the divorce ban is lifted. The opponents of divorce are speaking rather than shouting.

In her stationery shop Vera McLaughlin explains. "People here are very set in their ways. There are a lot of No voters around. What it is people are afraid of an 'explosion'. But if it is not passed it will be another 20 or 30 years before it can be raised again."

"In a whispered voice, she adds ruefully, "we will seem awful backward if it is lost."

Ronnie and Jack Matthews, who run a busy cafe in the town, have Huguenot connections which include three Blancs married into the family. Despite expectations of a "No" victory, Ronnie suggests that polls being open until 10pm on a Friday could be significant in allowing Ireland's weekend migration of tens of thousands of students to be in home towns in time to cast their mainly liberal votes. "That was a clever stroke by someone," he says.



Minority view: The Rev Scott Peoples in the churchyard of St Paul's, Portllington, founded by Huguenot settlers

Photograph: Tony Gavin

## Wife hurled knives at MP over 'gay affair'

David Ashby MP once had to lock himself and an elderly male friend in their rooms when his estranged wife began throwing knives and plates after accusing them of having an affair, the High Court heard yesterday.

Mr Ashby, 55, the MP for North West Leicestershire, who is suing for libel over an allegation in the *Sunday Times* that he is a homosexual, had taken retired civil servant Edward O'Byrne up to his constituency home, Ravenstone House, in June this year, his counsel Geoffrey Shaw QC told the court.

Silvana Ashby, 52, who was convinced her husband was having an affair with a doctor, Ciaran Kilduff, then arrived.

"She was very angry and probably expected to find Dr Kilduff there," Mr Shaw said. "Kitchen knives and plates were thrown at Mr Ashby. Then he got Mr O'Byrne in his room and locked him in and eventually Mr Ashby got to his room and locked himself in, leaving his wife downstairs shouting for some hours."

Mrs Ashby, who split from her husband at the end of 1993, was accompanied in court by their daughter Alexandra, 27.

Mr Ashby is claiming damages over the *Sunday Times* article in January 1994 which said he had shared a bed with a male friend on a holiday in Goa the previous November.

He says it alleged he was a practising homosexual who had misled Silvana about the nature of his sexuality: that he had lied

to the public about having an affair with Dr Kilduff during a trip to France early in 1994; and that he was a hypocrite in emphasising the importance of the family in his last election address.

Times Newspapers Ltd and former *Sunday Times* editor Andrew Neil deny libel, although they accept Mr Ashby did not holiday with a man in Goa, India. They claim that Mr Ashby was and is having an affair with Dr Kilduff.

Mr Shaw said a private detective had been watching Mr Ashby on behalf of the *Sunday Times*. He said the newspaper had amended its defence last month to include the allegation that Mr Ashby spent the night of last Bank Holiday Monday, 28 August, with Dr Kilduff in the doctor's flat in Putney, south-west London, for reasons of "mutual homosexual affection".

It had a video showing Mr Ashby arriving at 5.45pm on 28 August and leaving at 8.30am the next morning.

However, Mr Shaw said that Mr Ashby had in fact gone to the flat between 5pm and 6pm to put some plants in the garden before collecting Dr Kilduff from Heathrow at 9.25pm and dropping him off at the flat between 11pm and midnight.

He had gone into the flat for 30 minutes but had spent the night at his flat in Wimbledon before returning early next morning to potter in the garden and have a cup of coffee with Dr Kilduff before leaving at 8.30am.

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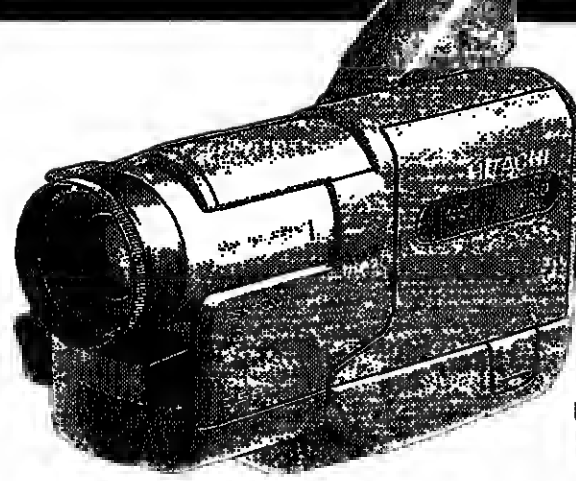
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**Budget countdown:** Threatened by closures, the whisky producers of the Highlands and islands call for easing of tax burden

## Scotch lobby in plea to protect distilleries

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major's commitment to listen to Scottish opinion is being challenged ahead of the Budget by the Scotch Whisky Association, which is lobbying hard to protect the distilleries from further closure.

A total of four distilleries producing malt whisky closed in the past year - Bruichladdich on Islay, Fullbarnie in Perthshire, Tannavulin in Speyside, and Glen Carlach in Aberdeen.

But it is not only the loss of the amber nectar that the Scots mourn. It is the loss of communities that the distilleries support.

There may be only a handful of jobs in each distillery but the position of the distillery in the community is very important. Quite often, they keep the local school going, the district nurse, the hotel and the shop. The whisky lorries going to and fro keep the ferries open to the islands," said Campbell

Evans, a spokesman for the Scotch Whisky Association.

The four distilleries which closed brought the total number of working distilleries down to 87 in Scotland.

The SWA lobbies the Treasury every year for a freeze in duty on whisky, but in recent days, its leaders have met Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to demand a cut of 8 per cent which would take 50p off a bottle of whisky, with 4 per cent cut every year for the next 14 years.

The Treasury's revenue from whisky fell by £80m when the duty was increased by 25p on a bottle in 1992. Mr Clarke avoided any increase in his Budget last year, but reversed the decision, and increased it by 26p a bottle in his mini-budget after the defeat over VAT on fuel. The SWA say that revenue has fallen by £54m as a result.

"More duty means less for the Treasury," said the SWA spokesman. The association's aim is to reduce the tax on

Scotch to the level of beer or wine. They complain that the duty on a glass of whisky is 29p, compared to only 17p for a glass of wine or 15p for a half pint of beer.

They have hired a top-flight Westminster lobby organisation, the Communications Group, and have been behind two delegations to see Mr Clarke at the Treasury to press their case.

The campaign is being handled by Jonathan Caine, who was until a month ago the special adviser to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Dame Jill Knight, the veteran Tory backbencher, led a delegation of Conservative MPs to the Chancellor a week ago. Mr Clarke met a group of senior SWA executives, including Hugh Morrison, the director general, and John McGrath, chief executive, to hear their demands.

Mr Clarke, a beer drinker, refused to give anything away.



Ring of bright water: A sample of whiskies from the Glengoyne distillery, in the Central region of Scotland

Photograph: Wattle Cheung

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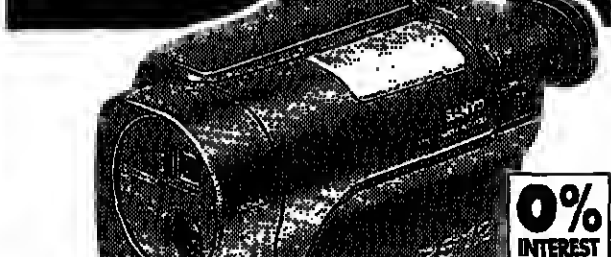
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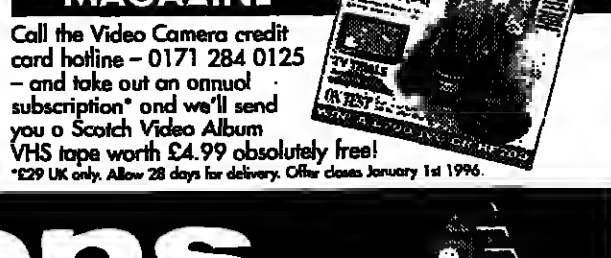
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## Hard times for men who make the hard stuff

JOHN ARLIDGE  
Scotland Correspondent

At the Glengoyne distillery, near the Trossachs, little has changed since whisky distilling began there in 1833.

The burn, which provides the pure unpeated water for producing whiskies, still runs down a waterfall outside the granite stillhouse. Inside, the latest generation of men and stillmen shuffle from washback to still checking the quality of the distillate, which will mature for up to 10 years in oak casks before being bottled.

But behind this quiet tradition, workers at Glengoyne, like many in Scotland's 87 distilleries, are worried. Kenneth Clarke's decision to levy an extra 26p duty on a bottle of whisky in his mini-Budget last December has led to a sharp decline in whisky sales.

Figures based on returns from Customs and Excise reveal that clearances from bond, the warehouses where the spirit must mature for at least three years to meet the legal requirement to become Scotch, have fallen by around 20 per cent since January.

Distillers insist that with whisky taxed at £7 a bottle, compared with just over £1 for

wine, Britain is pricing one of its finest products out of the domestic market. And sales on the Continent, which have been rising in recent years, are beginning to level off as foreign governments, taking their cue from the Chancellor, begin to tax whisky more heavily.

Jim Turle has worked at Glengoyne for 20 years. He describes the dramatic changes in the industry. "In the Seventies distilleries were selling around 13 million cases of Scotch in the UK and around 22 million in the US. Now the figures are around 10 million cases in each market. The figures speak for themselves. One of Britain's best products is at risk and unfair taxation is largely to blame."

Mr Turle argues that if whisky was cheaper, sales would rise and the Government's tax take would grow. Mr Clarke, he says, should cut 50p off the price of a bottle of Scotch. He acknowledges criticism distillers have been slow to market Scotch to a "lost generation" of drinkers under 30 who now prefer vodka and white rum. But he points to a series of groundbreaking television adverts as evidence the industry is putting its stillhouse in order. "We are doing our bit. It is time for the Government to do its."



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# Straw bed for Leeson as he starts life in jail

STEVE BOGGAN

Nick Leeson, the rogue Barings trader, was given his first taste of Singaporean prison life last night after a judge remanded him in custody at a maximum security jail.

The man credited with bringing down Britain's oldest bank slept on a straw mattress in a spartan cell shared with two white-collar criminals in Tanah Merah prison.

Mr Leeson, 38, will stay at the prison until 1 December when a date for his trial is likely to be set. During his first court appearance yesterday, he wore his futures trading uniform and looked tired after the flight from Frankfurt and a night's interrogation by Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department, the equivalent of Britain's Serious Fraud Office.

It took 75 minutes for the 11 charges against him to be read in full from 19 sheets of paper, a process for which District Judge Tan Siong Thye apologised. "I know it's laborious," he said. "But we have no choice. We have to go through it."

Mr Leeson is charged with fraud and forgery in the disastrous dealings which brought the 232-year-old bank to its knees last February with £840m losses. Six of the charges allege that he cheated the Singapore International Money Exchange (SIMEX), three allege that he forged documents and two that he defrauded Barings Futures Singapore.

The charge sheets contained reams of figures to illustrate the allegations of forgeries and misrepresentations he is accused of making in order to conceal his enormous, unauthorised losses.

The forgery charges alleged that Mr Leeson altered bank and company documents to show that Barings Futures was owed 7.778 billion yen by a US company, Spear, Leeds and Kellogg.

This was done to deceive Bar-

ings auditors into believing that Barings Futures had enough money to fund the futures bets, when it fact it did not.

He allegedly hid losses in an account called Error Account 88888 and created credits in other accounts to give the impression that he could cover his losses.

Mr Leeson was hitting on Japanese stocks rising but they plunged in the wake of last year's Kobe earthquake.

Instead of pulling out and cutting his losses, he continued on what has been described as a "double or quits" strategy. No one has ever alleged that he stole money for himself.

Throughout yesterday's hearing in court 26 of the Subordinate Courts building, which his wife, Lisa, did not attend, Mr Leeson listened soberly and made no comment. He was not asked to enter a plea.

His solicitor, John Koh, said the trial could begin as early as late December.

Until then, Mr Leeson will sleep on his straw mattress in a cell with no furniture. He will eat standard prison fare, which includes meals without pork for Muslims, and he will have daily visitation rights except at weekends.

Remand prisoners are also allowed visits by ordained ministers with the approval of the director of prisons, as well as meetings with lawyers. Foreigners may be visited by consular officers from their embassies or high commissions.

If convicted, Mr Leeson faces a maximum sentence of 14 years.

However, there has been much speculation that he will receive a much shorter sentence in return for co-operating with the Singaporeans, whose own inquiry asked questions of the behaviour of James Bax, Mr Leeson's superior in the Singapore operation, and Peter Norris, his boss in Britain. Mr Leeson has said he will co-operate fully.



From the Impressionist and Modern sales: Above, Gauguin's small painting *Femmes au Bord de la Rivière* (est. £1.5-2m); below left, detail from Degas's *La Toilette* (est. £0.8-1m), both at Sotheby's. Below right, one of only two bronze versions of Brancusi's sculpture *Le Commencement du Monde* (est. £2m), at Christie's



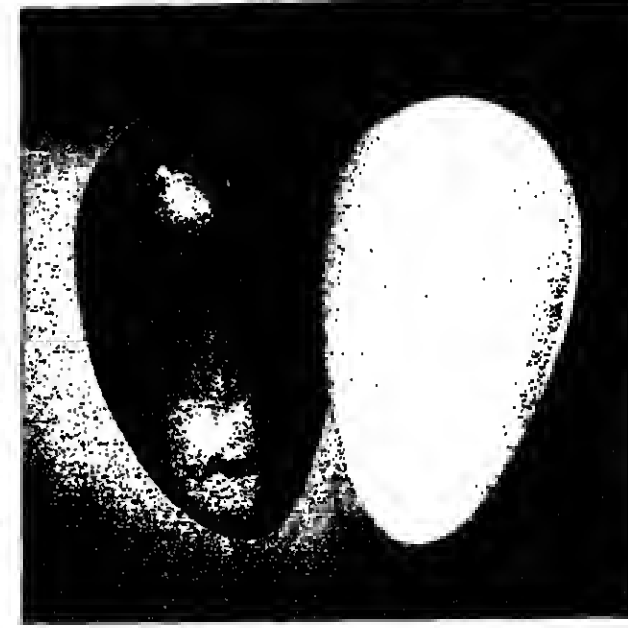
## Modern art sale offers Gauguin's Tahiti magic

JOHN MCKIE

The finest collection of Impressionist and Modern Art seen in Britain this year - including a sculpture never before seen by the public - is to be sold this week in two auctions in London. Sotheby's will offer some of the century's best works in a two-day sale, opening on Monday, with paintings by Gauguin, Monet and Pissarro. Among them is one of Paul Gauguin's first canvases of the South Seas, *Femmes au Bord de la Rivière*, which dates from his first visit to Tahiti in 1891-3. Last June, Gauguin's last landscape of Tahiti fetched £5.5m at Sotheby's

and this smaller work is expected to fetch £1.5-2m.

Claude Monet's *Matinée sur la Seine* (est. £1-1.25m), Degas's *La Toilette* (est. £0.8-£1m) and a selection of work from German expressionists, including Max Pechstein, Egon Schiele and Erich Heckel, are on offer as well. On Tuesday, Christie's offers work never before seen by the public, a version of Constantin Brancusi's *Le Commencement du Monde*. The bronze sculpture, kept in a private collection for 70 years, is expected to realise up to £2m. Christie's also has works by Bonnard, Picasso, Degas and Magritte.



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## news

# Fatal attack on unborn child 'can be murder case'

A man who stabbed his pregnant girlfriend, ultimately causing the death of their baby daughter, could have been tried for murder, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, ruled yesterday.

The Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, had asked judges in the Court of Appeal to rule in a test case that the man had committed either murder or manslaughter. However, Lord Taylor immediately allowed yesterday's ruling to go to the House of Lords because of its importance to the law.

He emphasised that his decision would not have any implications for doctors carrying out abortions.

Simon Hawkins QC had argued at the hearing that no offence could be committed against a child who, at the time of the attack which later caused its death, was as yet unborn and therefore not legally recognised as "a person in being".

He warned the appeal judges that to uphold the Attorney General's case would "open up a very difficult area" in relation to late abortions and the delivery of five foetuses which are then allowed to die.

But Lord Taylor, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Kay and Mrs Justice Steel, said in his judgment: "A doctor who carries out an abortion in accordance with the Abortion

Act 1967 is not acting unlawfully and hence, were such a doctor to be charged with murder, the charge would fail because the element that the act must be unlawful could not be made out."

The woman victim was stabbed during a drunken row and gave birth three months prematurely. Her baby, which bore a stab wound in her abdomen, died four months later. Two years ago, her boyfriend was acquitted of murdering the child on the directions of a judge at Leeds Crown Court.

The man, sentenced to four years in jail for wounding the woman, has not been named at the Court of Appeal and yesterday's ruling cannot affect his acquittal on the murder charge.

However, a new point of law has been formulated which will mean that anyone causing unlawful injury to a foetus or a pregnant woman which eventually causes the death of the child may face manslaughter or murder charges.

In their conclusions yesterday, the judges ruled: "Murder or manslaughter can be committed where unlawful injury is deliberately inflicted either to a child in utero or to a mother carrying a child in utero."

"The requisite intent to be proved in the case of murder is an intention to kill or cause really serious bodily injury to the mother, the foetus before birth being viewed as an integral part of the mother."

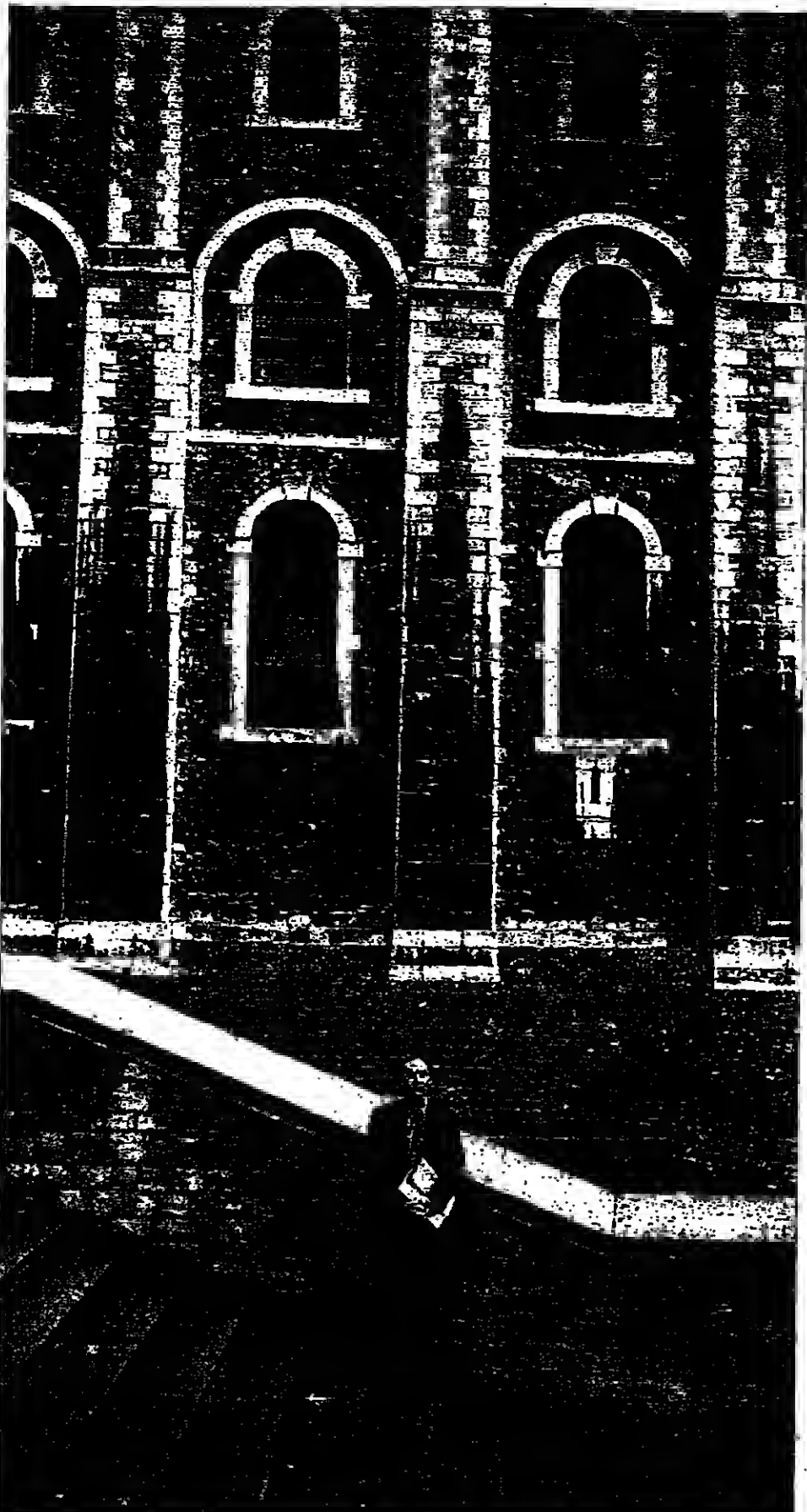
Lord Taylor allowed the case to be referred to the House of Lords after Andrew Lees, junior counsel for the man in the Leeds trial, said the judgment was "a matter of great public importance with far reaching consequences."

"It does widen protection to the unborn child, not only to charges of murder and manslaughter but to charges of unlawful violence. It should be decided by the House of Lords because it is a redirection of law."



Lord Taylor: Appeal ruling

Rebuilt attraction: Discovery of lower roof denies William the Conqueror architect's role



Time watch: Geoffrey Parnell in front of the White Tower



Historical clue: The visible outline of the Tower's original, pitched roof

## Tower's secret storey rewrites history

DAVID LISTER  
Arts Correspondent

Officials at the Tower of London have uncovered a 900-year-old secret which means that the history of Britain's most famous tourist attraction will have to be rewritten.

It has been discovered that the White Tower, the imposing centrepiece of the Tower, was originally only two thirds the size it is now.

It emerges that the roof of the famous building is not the original built by William the Conqueror, as has always been assumed. Instead, in what might be the first example of a royal offspring trying to emulate and outdo his father, his son William Rufus put on a higher roof.

Guy Wilson, Master of the Armouries at the Tower of London, described the discovery as a "sensational" find. "It changes the history of the White Tower, one of the most famous buildings in Britain," he said.

The discovery was made by Geoffrey Parnell, Keeper of Tower History and author of the official history of the building. He was clearing parts of the White Tower to redisplay it after moving objects up to the new Royal Armouries museum

in Leeds, when he found on a stone wall a visible scar of the original pitched roof.

A search through the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* showed there had been a hurricane in 1090, leaving the building "sore shaken by the wind".

The subsequent rebuilding of the Tower of London by William Rufus means that historians will now have to decide why he changed his father's plans, and what uses would have been made of the original, much smaller building. Mr Parnell said the significance for architectural historians was enormous.

He added: "There is a clear scar of a pitched roof which predates the flat one. It sets the cat among the pigeons in terms of the Tower's history. It now looks like the violent storm of 1090 was the sort of event which may have brought about a major remodelling of the building."

"Rufus was a builder monarch. He built the Great Hall at Westminster. He wasn't a man to do things by half. So he clearly decided to improve on his father's efforts. One has to accept that there's strong evidence of an earlier, lower roof, so we now have to find out

how the earlier rooms worked. The two main chambers on the first floor now begin to look more like conventional Norman halls."

Mr Wilson added: "No one had thought before that the building was at the wrong height."

Mr Parnell's official book on the Tower says: "The White Tower is still one of the potent symbols of Norman authority. To the native Saxon population of London, unfamiliar with buildings of such scale and appearance, it must have provided a vivid reminder that a new order had been established."

Now, of course, the new discovery makes it clear that William the Conqueror's building was a third less imposing.

"It's an enigma," said Mr Parnell yesterday. "Why did Rufus do it? The original building would have looked different and worked differently. What went on inside it? We don't have the answers yet."

The re-examination of the White Tower, which attracted 2.3 million visitors last year, is leading to other discoveries. An exploration of disused chimney flues has found a bird's nest believed to be hundreds of years old.



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## international

Mexico scandal: Geneva police launch money-laundering inquiry

## Salinas relative held in \$84m Swiss swoop

RAYMOND WHITAKER  
and agencies

The scandal enveloping Mexico's political establishment acquired fresh dimensions yesterday when the Swiss authorities announced that the sister-in-law of the former president, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, had been arrested in Geneva in a drugs and money-laundering investigation.

Paulina Castanon was arrested in the company of her brother, Antonio Castanon, as she used false documents in an attempt to withdraw \$84m (£53m) from a Swiss bank account, according to the Mexican attorney-general's office. She is the wife of Mr Salinas's brother, Raul, who has been in detention since February on charges that he masterminded the murder of the secretary-general of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Mexican newspapers yesterday published photographs of a false driving licence bearing Raul Salinas's photograph but in the name of Juan Guillermo Gomez, an alias the authorities say he has used before to buy one of the 21 properties they claim he accumulated during his

brother's years in power. His wife presented the licence at the Geneva bank as proof of identity. Investigators subsequently found a birth certificate, passport and other documents bearing the same photograph and false name.

Without naming Ms Castanon, the Swiss statement said two Mexican nationals had been arrested and bank accounts containing millions of dollars had been blocked in Geneva and Zurich. "In collaboration with US and Mexican authorities," the statement added, "a judicial police inquiry is under way into several Mexican nationals for alleged activities in financing drug trafficking and laundering money from the traffic of drugs."

Former president Salinas was praised as an economic reformer while in office, but his reputation collapsed almost as soon as his term was over. Having been tipped as a possible leader of the new World Trade Organisation until the scandal broke, he left Mexico under a cloud earlier this year, having quarrelled publicly with his successor, Ernesto Zedillo. A few days earlier his brother had been arrested for allegedly or-



President Salinas: his reputation is tarnished

dering the assassination of Francisco Ruiz Massieu, the PRI secretary-general. The president's present whereabouts are not known, although *Reforma* newspaper reported yesterday that he had been sighted at the end of August in Cuba, using a false identity.

The arrest of Ms Castanon adds evidence of possible drug-dealing and corruption to a case of murder and betrayal among families at the top of Mexico's political structure. Even the brother of the assassinated politician is implicated. Having been put in charge of in-

vestigating the killing, Mario Ruiz Massieu, a former Deputy Attorney-General, is accused of trying to cover up Raul Salinas's alleged part in the murder plot. His previous job was heading the anti-narcotics work of the attorney-general's office; prosecutors now claim to have found nearly \$7m in bank accounts he opened in Texas.

The Mexican authorities say the latest arrests show that Raul Salinas amassed a fortune while his brother was in office, using a false identity and 30 bank accounts. They plan to question him in detention about the origin of the money his wife was trying to withdraw.

The man who carried out Francisco Ruiz Massieu's murder in September 1994, Daniel Aguilar Trevino, was arrested at the scene and sentenced to 50 years in prison. Police soon arrested a half a dozen alleged conspirators, but the key figure, Manuel Munoz Rocha, a congressman, disappeared soon after the killing, and prosecutors say they are afraid he may be dead. Raul Salinas has denied claims by some witnesses that he was close to Mr Munoz Rocha, and saw him after Ruiz Massieu was killed.



Bono, the lead singer of U2, at an awards ceremony in Paris at which he called President Jacques Chirac a "wanker". "What a city ... what a crowd, what a bomb, what a mistake, what a wanker you have for president," he said in receiving an MTV award this week. "What are you going to do about it?" he said to applause. The singer Jon Bon Jovi was among other artists who lambasted Mr Chirac for the nuclear tests France is holding in the Pacific, the latest of which was on Tuesday. Photograph: Reuters

## Nuclear stunt strikes fear in heart of Russia

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

It may not compare with the havoc he caused when he took 1,000 Russians hostage, but Shamil Basayev will doubtless be rubbing his hands in glee after his latest stunt at the Kremlin's expense - the disclosure that a radioactive container was buried in the middle of Moscow.

Officials were compelled to use a network of sensors across the entire city to look for high radiation levels after the Chechen rebel disclosed the whereabouts of the "hot" package to a Russian television station, NTV, which tracked it down beneath a thin covering of snow in a park.

The Russian authorities, who sent three teams of emergency workers to the scene, sought to play down the affair by pointing out that the object was not particularly dangerous to human life, although it was giving off at least 30 times more radiation than the normal background level.

The Federal Security Service - one of the descendants of the KGB - said the object, found in Izmailova Park in east Moscow, contained caesium-137, which is used in cancer research and therapy.

Officials said that their city-wide monitoring, using a network of 46 mobile sensors, had found nothing unusual - al-

though this is small comfort to Muscovites, who know that the capital is dotted with hundreds of "hot" spots.

But the incident will have alarmed the Russian security services, which are bracing themselves for tomorrow's anniversary of the outbreak of fighting in Chechnya. Tensions in the republic have been further cranked up by the Yeltsin administration's plans to hold elections in Chechnya next month, which the rebels have vowed to disrupt.

Russia has long feared that the conflict will be brought to the streets of Moscow, a concern that has deepened in the last few days with the discovery and disposal of two mines near a city highway frequently used by government staff. Moscow officials yesterday announced they were tightening security on the streets, by throwing a new ring of police and traffic patrolmen around the city's perimeter, and stepping up patrols at airports and stations.

Although they claimed this was unrelated to Mr Basayev's latest exploits, he has been taunting the Kremlin since he masterminded the commando-style operation which led to the hostage-taking in a town in southern Russia last June. The nature of his threats will send a chill down the spine of the toughest security official: be talks of mounting raids on Russia's nuclear power stations.

## Pop star sees red as Kremlin poll hopefuls call tune

Moscow — Stop almost anyone in the street and you'll discover that Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, is not short of critics, writes Phil Reeves. You will meet pensioners without money or heating, soldiers without pay or clothing and women without jobs or housing. Now a new name can be added to the list: Glenn Hughes, ex-bass guitarist for Deep Purple.

A week ago, the British musician could not have picked out the grey-suited, balding Russian Prime Minister out of a police line-up of global politicians. Now, to his evident annoyance, he would have no difficulty, having been bombarded with images of the great man.

When Hughes agreed to give a concert in Moscow this week he thought it would simply be for "the Russian people". He had no idea the event was organised by Our Home Is Russia, the centrist party supported by President Boris Yeltsin and headed by Mr Chernomyrdin, who is desperately trying to curry favour with Russian trendies before next month's parliamentary elections.

The guitarist was "mortified" when the press broke the news to him. "I didn't know anything about the situation behind this



Chernomyrdin tricked Deep Purple man into playing

concert, so I really must apologise 101 per cent," he told a press conference, as he sat before a giant poster of the Prime Minister (whom he could not identify). "I feel really stupid right now, but I have a concert to do so I must compose myself." And off he went, to a stage bedecked with party posters.

The concert was one of a series organised by an offshoot of Mr Chernomyrdin's party. Russians may be new to electoral politics, but they are fast learning the tricks: the initiative's organiser told the *Moscow Times* his mission was to "cynically target youth by providing them with action shows", an understandable ambition, given that the party lags behind the Communists in the opinion polls.

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Social-security protest: 'People power' surprises Juppé as thousands march and many air, sea and rail links are paralysed

# France brought to a standstill by strikes

MARY DEJEVSKY  
Paris

If the French government did not know what it was up against in trying to reform the social-security system, it does now. For five hours yesterday, a column of up to 50,000 demonstrators marched through central Paris, paralysing traffic in the city's commercial district on the right bank of the Seine and drawing bemused exclamations of "Amazing!" and, at times, warm applause from onlookers massed on the pavements.

Arranged in almost tribal formation, union by union, each with its own coloured banners and battle-cries, the demonstrators processed slowly in some disorganisation, mingling cries of "Chirac and Juppé - Out, Out, Out!", angry drumming, and snatches of French popular songs reworded to protest against "hutchery of the social-security system".

Big stores had barred their doors, but small shops and

cafés, whose owners could be heard debating loudly whether to shut for safety's sake or stay open for the sake of business, did a roaring trade.

The accompanying strikes brought many of France's internal and external transport links to a standstill. Air France managed to operate fewer than one in five of its short-haul flights; some provincial French airports managed no flights at all. There were neither flights nor ferries to Corsica, which was cut off for the day.

Cross-Channel links were badly disrupted. There were no ferries from Calais: French-operated ships remained in port. British ferries were rerouted to Belgian ports; no cargo ships sailed at all. Other ports, however, including Dieppe and most of those farther west, worked normally.

Although the Channel Tunnel shuttle trains operated without a hitch, the Eurostar service was unable to run the 10 out of 12 Paris-London trains it had

confidently predicted the previous day. The first two trains due out in the morning were prevented from leaving by two dozen or so pickets who blocked the line. Eurostar laid on coaches to transport passengers to Folkestone via the shuttle, but by 11am only three coaches had left.

The departure board at the usually bustling Gare du Nord was blank. Some high-speed trains did run on major French routes, but only a fraction of the usual number. Suburban train networks into Paris and other big cities were in effect shut down.

By mid-afternoon only one of the 12 Paris underground lines was operating; and fewer than 10 per cent of buses. The morning rush-hour had seen improbable traffic jams at the entry points into central Paris, and drivers were expecting a repeat performance in the evening. The picture was repeated across France.

According to official figures

produced by the public-service ministry, yesterday's strikes were less well supported than the public-sector strike on 10 October, called to protest against the government's declaration of a public-sector wage freeze for 1996.

However, the disruption to transport by the end of the day, and the scenes on the streets, told a different story. While most banks managed to stay open, post offices, benefit offices and labour exchanges were all shut. And if - which is open to question - more people turned up at work than on 10 October, considerably more people also turned out on the streets to demonstrate.

In late morning, President Jacques Chirac, and the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, whose plan to reform the health and social-security system was the object of all the protests, held an unscheduled meeting at the Elysée. Mr Juppé left without saying anything, but the labour and social affairs minister, Jacques Barrot, later said in a radio interview that the government wanted to restart a dialogue "to exorcise the fears expressed by the demonstrators and strikers".

It was Mr Barrot who, in September, announced the 1996 pay freeze in the public sector and said that he had no plans to discuss the matter further.

Until yesterday, the government's position looked strong, and the trade unions, most of whose support is concentrated in the country's large public sector, which looked disunited and weak. Only six of the seven main unions had sponsored yesterday's strike, and the leadership of the biggest union, the CGT, was squabbling in public about the merits or otherwise of Mr Juppé's proposed reforms.

Yesterday, however, "people power" dominated. Although the second-largest union, the Force Ouvrière, had told its members to save their energies for their own day of action next Tuesday, FO members supported the strike and formed one of the biggest contingents at the Paris march.

## Warning of new French revolution

Paris — With tens of thousands of workers marching through Paris and other cities yesterday, and a similar number of students filling the streets on Tuesday, there is no lack of French commentators drawing comparisons and contrasts with 1968. For some, however, the comparison is with the full-blown revolution of 1789, writes Mary Dejevsky.

The most egregious of these is Alain Madelin, the former economy minister, who was dismissed by Alain Juppé at the end of August for saying in public what many people thought in private about the relative security and benefits enjoyed by public sector compared with the private sector. Mr Madelin's remarks provoked an outcry among trade union leaders who rushed to defend "hardwon benefits". But, in a book published yesterday, he showed he has no regrets.

The book, "When the ostriches raise their heads", is an affirmation of Thatcherism applied to France: reduce union power, privatise, deregulate what can be deregulated and let the market rule supreme.

Considering the state of France, however, Mr Madelin analyses what he sees as its one great social divide between the elite and the rest as perhaps the biggest and potentially most explosive division since eve of the French Revolution.

"A gulf has opened up between the rulers and the ruled ... the reason for the rupture is that the social escalator has broken down, the machine that creates jobs has seized up and everyone is fighting to regain or keep his place." The élites "are blocking the evolution of the system. There is certainly a parallel to draw with the situation in France at the end of the ancien régime."

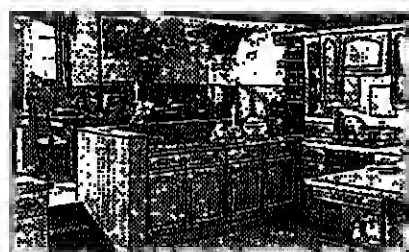
Mr Madelin, a lawyer from a poor background, deplors the dominance of the "great colleges" where the élite was educated. This élite, he argues, with a glancing reference to the affair of Mr Juppé's subsidised flat, inhabit their own enclosed world, with their own tax regime and their own laws - or rather, exemption from the law.



Solidarity: Trade-union banners are carried through the streets of Bordeaux

Photograph: Régis Duvignau/Reuters

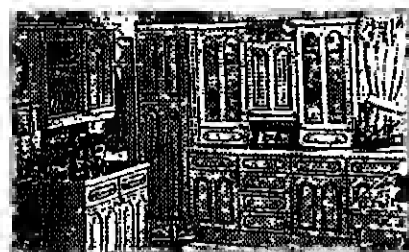
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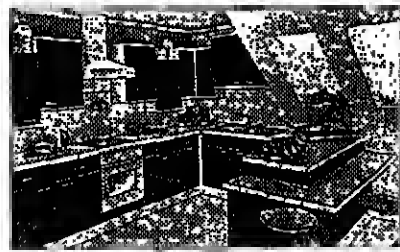
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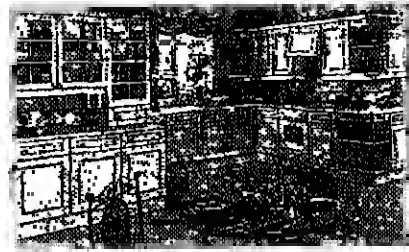
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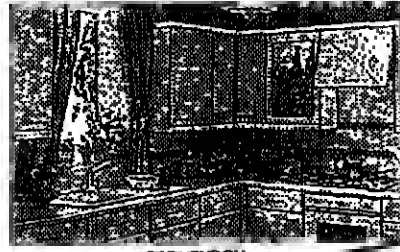
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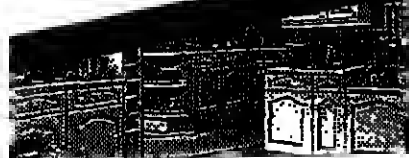


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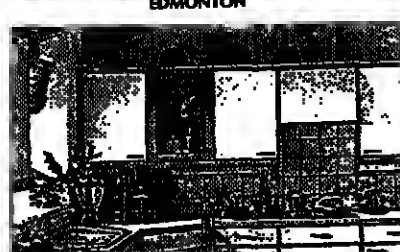
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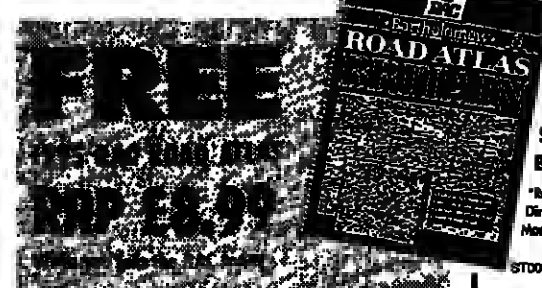
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**Kurdish conflict:** Guerrilla leaders admit pointless feud has alienated former Western allies and brought comfort to Baghdad

## Warlords bewail fall of anti-Saddam front

**HUGH POPE**  
Salahuddin, Northern Iraq

Massoud Barzani twisted his hands in embarrassment. Even as a powerful protagonist, he agonised over the way Iraq's Kurds have frittered away Western goodwill and protection in an 18-month-old civil conflict that has split their opposition front against the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein.

"We have ourselves to blame for the mess," the guerrilla leader said in an interview in his hilltop Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) headquarters, 250 miles north of Baghdad.

"People are frustrated, disappointed, and I don't blame them. We had so many hopes and ambitions that we would build democracy here."

On the other side of the

lightly-armed front lines in the nearby Iraqi Kurdish regional capital of Arbil, officials of Jalal Talabani's rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) spoke of the same shame.

"There is no hate. It is not like Lebanon. We were together at school. We are the same people, same religion," said Sadi Ahmed Piri, a PUK negotiator in the latest peace process that has been making hesitant progress since a cease-fire was agreed, somewhat bizarrely, in the Irish town of Drogheda in August.

British and American mediators descended on Salahuddin this month to push the talks forward. But the only test of success will be in the implementation, a problem that has undermined all previous promises to try to knit the 3.2 million

people of Iraqi Kurdistan together again.

Points of difference remain much the same as they have since a feud over a piece of land in March 1994 sparked the conflagration. Mr Barzani now controls the richest customs point on the Turkish border, which produces £36m of customs revenue per month. Mr Talabani controls the chief cities, Arbil and Sulaymaniyah, and about 70 per cent of the population.

Only if they can share these will anything meaningful come out of easily agreed points such as reconvening parliament, appointing a new regional government and holding new parliamentary elections, possibly in May 1996. Only then can the indebted, Western-backed Iraqi National Congress resume its role as a bridge between the two Kurdish groups, organising an alternative to President Saddam's rule in Baghdad.

Hundreds of Kurdish guerrillas have been killed in 18 months of meaningless fighting. In the last elections in 1992, both Kurdish factions got votes in each other's areas, even though Mr Barzani's KDP is a more tribal, popular among Kermanshah-dialect Kurds, while Mr Talabani's PUK is more urban and left-wing, popular among Surani-dialect Kurds.

In the end, Kurdish observers fear, the system of two adjacent single-party fiefdoms will continue until a decades-old feud between the two men is decisively resolved. In the meantime, regional states have not sat idle. The mountain homeland of the 25 million Kurds is split between Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran, and all of them want to ensure that the Kurds neither unite nor threaten their internal security.

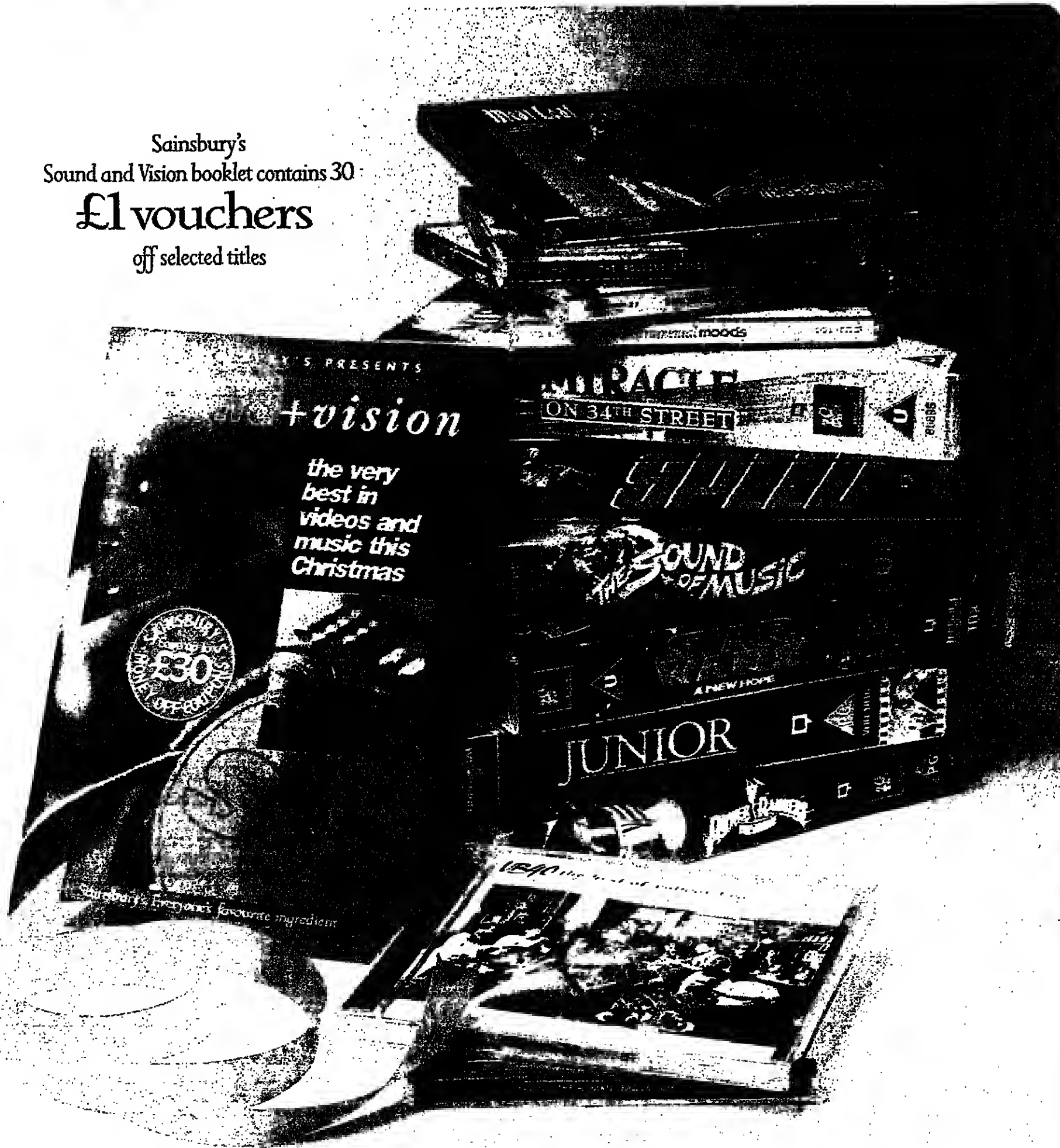
Damascus is manipulating the disruptive PKK. Turkish Kurds rebels that it sponsors into a position of power in northern Iraq. Hard-pressed Baghdad is being more conciliatory to all factions. Tehran is fast developing a special relationship with Mr Talabani's PUK.

Iranian aid delegations have multiplied their visits. The KDP alleges Mr Talabani has also closed down the Iranian Kurdish opposition radio, and has allowed the murder of 19 Iranian Kurdish activists.

"It's embarrassing and it's illogical. Enemies of the Kurds can now say the Kurds cannot rule themselves," said Sami Abdurrahman, Mr Barzani's chief negotiator. "All of us are supposed to be on the same ship. Our ship has not arrived at any shore. We are in the wildest sea and we are still fighting among ourselves."

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## Korea's Kim to punish his predecessors

**RICHARD LLOYD PARRY**  
Tokyo

The political scandal engulfing South Korea escalated yesterday when President Kim Young Sam ordered a law aimed at punishing his two military predecessors for a notorious massacre. A spokesman for Mr Kim's Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) said new legislation would allow the government to prosecute former presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, believed to have ordered the killing of hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1980, a year after gaining power in a military coup.

"I will make the special legislation an opportunity to demonstrate to the people that justice, truth and the law exist in this land," Mr Kim was quoted as saying by the DLP's secretary-general Kang Sam Jae.

The announcement is an about-turn for Mr Kim, whose own government has come under intense pressure since the uncovering of a separate political bribery scandal a month ago. Mr Roh, a former political ally of Mr Kim and founder of the DLP, has admitted amassing a huge political slush fund, alleged by prosecutors to have been extracted in the form of bribes from many of South Korea's biggest corporations.

A similar confession was made seven years ago by Mr Roh's own mentor, Mr Chun, who succeeded in living down the scandal by spending two years of self-imposed exile in a Buddhist monastery.

But Mr Roh's grovelling on national television early this month only intensified public

anger. A week ago he was jailed, pending charges of receiving bribes from 24 companies, including the massive Hyundai, Samsung and Daewoo conglomerates. Prosecutors told Korean reporters yesterday that the heads of the suspected companies would be charged soon, although they will not be placed in detention, "out of consideration for the effects it would have on the economy".

Corruption has long been assumed to be endemic but never before has it been exposed in such detail, or been pinned down to so many prominent names.

Mr Kim, the first elected president in almost four decades, came to power two years ago on a platform of anti-corruption legislation that has claimed more than a thousand businessmen and politicians, including members of his family. But the growing suspicion voiced by opposition leaders is that the President himself benefited from Mr Roh's \$650m (£430m) fund.

To make a clean break with its discredited founder, the DLP announced last week it will change its name before parliamentary elections next April.

The same desire to reassert his clean image in advance of any nasty revelations Mr Roh's trial brings must lie behind the decision to re-examine the Kwangju affair.

In May 1980, student demonstrators took to the streets in the south-western city after Mr Chun and Mr Roh seized power from the generals. Over 10 days, between 200 and 2,000 protesters were killed by troops acting on Mr Chun's orders.

### IN BRIEF

#### 600,000 Poles challenge election

Warsaw — The Polish Supreme Court has received more than 600,000 election protests, filed mainly by supporters of the defeated president Lech Walesa, most of them complaining that the winning candidate, the former Communist Aleksander Kwasniewski, falsely claimed to have graduated from university. AP

#### Mrs Mandela loses court battle

Johannesburg — Winnie Mandela, estranged wife of President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, lost her appeal against a court order to pay more than 100,000 rand (£20,000) for chartering a jet to Angola in 1987. The ruling followed an announcement that she had agreed this week to pay more than R500,000 to a bank threatening to foreclose on her mortgage. AP

#### Mahathir ready to step down

Kuala Lumpur — Malaysia's Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, reminding his United Malays National Organisation that he was now 70, said he would "soon" hand over power to his deputy, Anwar Ibrahim, 47, indicating for the first time that he is ready to step down after 14 years in office. Mr Anwar has repeatedly denied that there is a power struggle in the party, although his supporters have openly said that it is time for Dr Mahathir to step down. AP

#### Women plead for Kashmir hostages

New Delhi — The wives and girlfriends of four Western hostages in Kashmir, including the Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, asked their captors to give up the demand that the men be swapped for imprisoned guerrillas. The women supported the Indian government's refusal to discuss an exchange. AP

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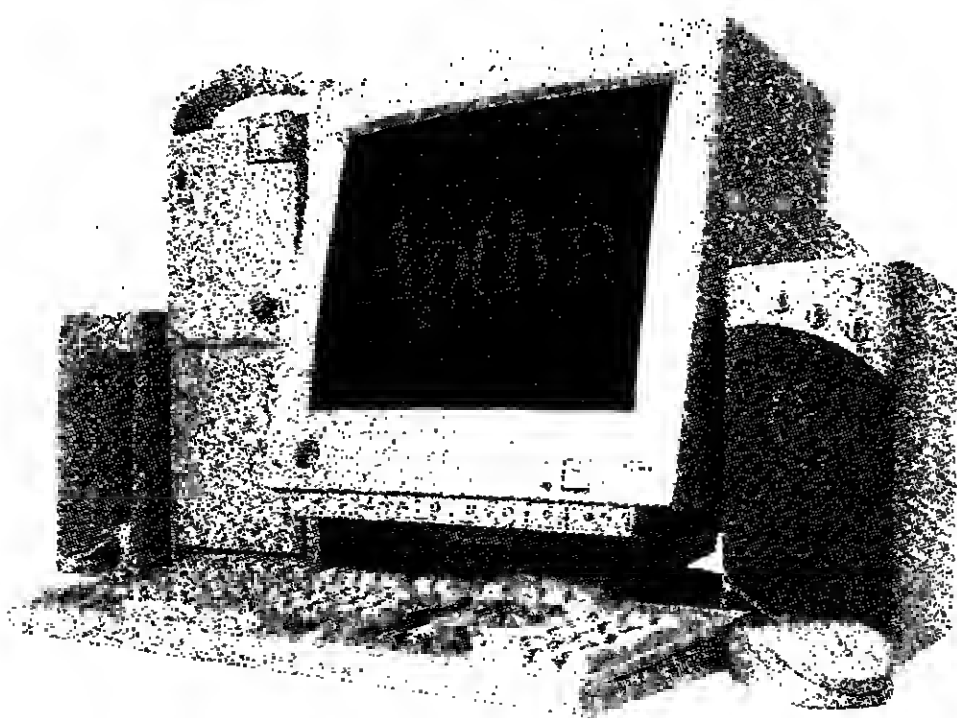
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## PEACE IN THE BALKANS

## Muslims learn to fear Tudjman's embrace

Michael Sheridan on the backstage drama that brought peace to Bosnia

For at least one diplomat at the Bosnian peace talks, the most sinister figure present was not the whisky-slinging Serbian strongman, Slobodan Milosevic, but the portly and avuncular Franjo Tudjman, the President of Croatia.

"Tudjman has a low opinion of Muslims and he doesn't hide it," said this observer, who sat through all 21 days of talks on a sealed-off US Air Force base at Dayton, Ohio. "That hurts them," he said, "you could see it in their faces." By contrast, Mr Milosevic was brutal and direct, yet capable of telling the Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Silajdzic: "You deserve Sarajevo, you stayed there through the siege and the shelling." With those words he doomed the Bosnian Serbs to defeat on the issue of Bosnia's capital, which will go to the Muslim-Croat federation.

But Mr Tudjman, the supposed ally of the Muslims in this American-engineered pact, radiated a chilling and ominous disinterest in the fate of Muslim Bosnia, according to several reliable witnesses. He barely deigned to treat the hapless President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia as an equal.

And Mr Izetbegovic's inconsistent and indecisive negotiating method — long familiar to mediators like Lord Owen and Carrington — finally alienated senior American officials, whose initial wholehearted support for the Bosnian Muslim leadership has not outlasted prolonged contact with it. These were among the most conspicuous ironies that have come to light since the secrecy that surrounded the talks began

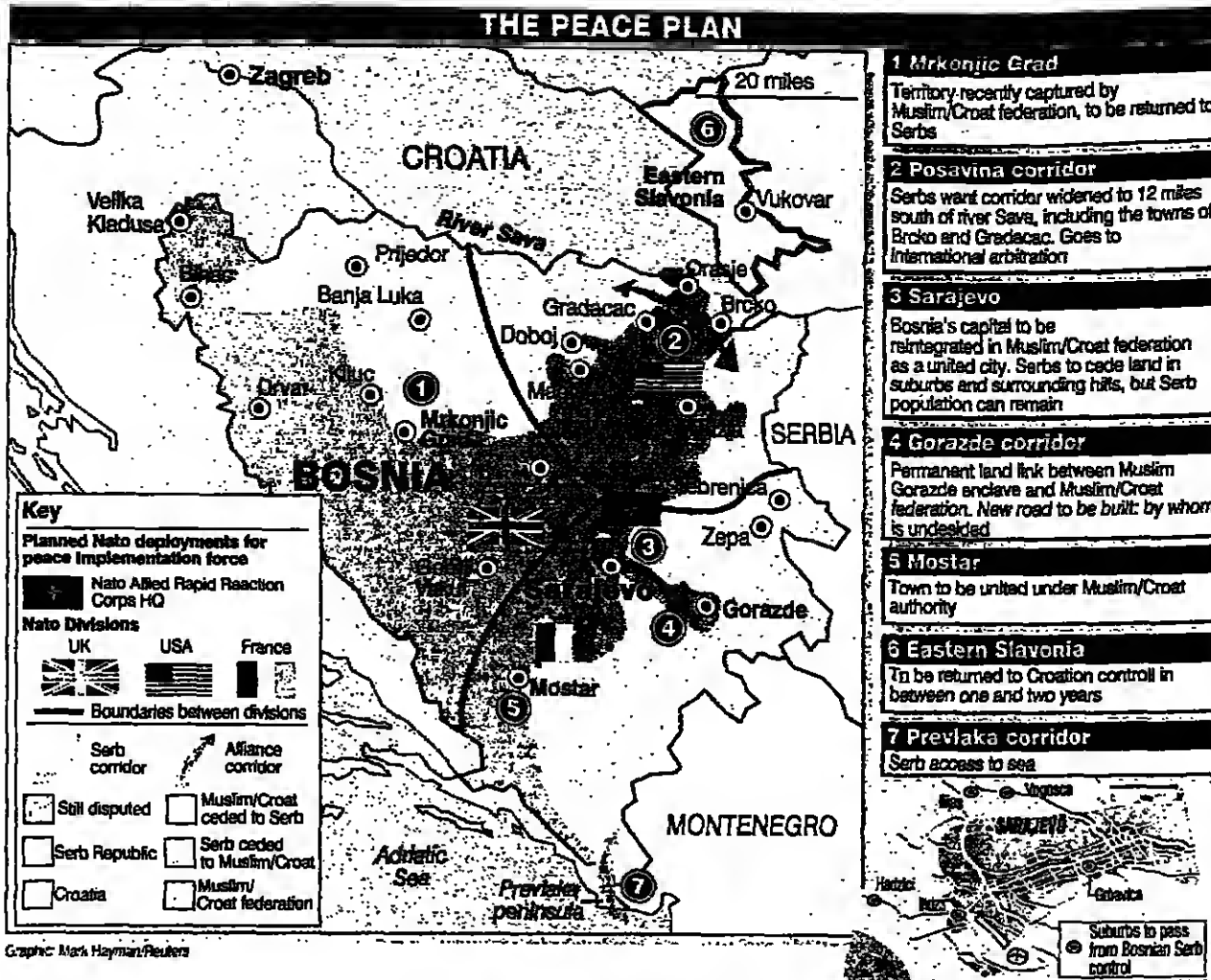
to lift this week. The peace settlement was initiated after several delays last Tuesday.

Most days, the six members of the British delegation to the peace talks met at 7.30am to review their plans. Pauline Neville-Jones, 56, Political Director at the Foreign Office, was Britain's key player in the delicate game of keeping in with the Americans and ensuring British interests were not swept aside.

Miss Neville-Jones' confidential telegrams to the Foreign Office "will make vintage reading in 30 years time" according to one who has read them already. They reflected a continuous tension between the Europeans and a high-powered team of American negotiators who were forcing the pace. The French Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, has described the tense atmosphere among the Europeans as the result of "American attempts to marginalise them".

Nobody who has attempted to marginalise the formidable Miss Neville-Jones has previously escaped unscathed, and by the end the chief American negotiator, Richard Holbrooke, found his relations with her reduced to brisk courtesies.

At 8.30 each morning, the British went to join a strategy session with the other Europeans — the French, the Germans and Carl Bildt, the European Union negotiator. At 9am they were joined by the Americans and the Russians. Then this uneasy group split up to deal with the Serb, Croat and Muslim delegations. The Americans were at a huge advantage. All the Yu-



Graphic: Mark Hayman/Reuters

goslav delegations clearly believed their modest quarters, "like a three star hotel", said one inmate, were bugged. They went for walks outside in the snow to talk among themselves. Their phone and fax communications with home were presumed to be insecure. And the Americans brought all their

force to bear on two demands alien to the political culture of the Balkans: a fixed deadline and a yes-or-no decision. That worried several Europeans. "It was an American decision to go for a cutoff," a European diplomat said. "And then a number of deadlines passed by, which caused a credibility

problem. But they were right, we had to get an outcome." The pressure to reach a decision split the Bosnian government delegation. To the ill-concealed pleasure of several of the Europeans, it broke the political power of Bosnia's high-profile Foreign Minister, Mohammed Sacirbey, an

American-educated master of emotive television soundbites who coped less well with secret talks. "Sacirbey was very close to President Izetbegovic at the start but unfortunately for him he'd been denied the megaphone," said a diplomat. "By the end it was Silajdzic, the Prime Minister, who was the man



Franjo Tudjman of Croatia (left) showed an ominous contempt for his Bosnian counterpart, Alija Izetbegovic

who could make a deal." There are also tales circulating among diplomats that Mr Sacirbey's socialising during the talks offended the Americans. He has since announced his resignation. The Americans used their leverage to put pressure on the Bosnians to reduce their contacts with Iran and agree that all "foreign forces and freedom fighters", a reference to Islamic Mujahedin, must leave the war zone. Achieving their departure could test the British forces who will take over their area, but it is clearly an objective of American policy to remove extremist Islamic politics from the Bosnian equation.

If the Bosnian government had its problems, the most pathetic delegation at Dayton was that of the Bosnian Serbs. It was President Milosevic who made the bitter deal to turn over key Serb suburbs of Sarajevo to the Muslims and Croats. The arguments over the future map

of Bosnia were crafted to ensure a better outcome for Milosevic sympathisers around the northern town of Banja Luka than for the faction loyal to Radovan Karadzic, in Pale.

In Dayton, Mr Milosevic treated the Bosnian Serbs with contempt. "They weren't even allowed to use the telephone and the fax", a diplomat said. When the delegation's deadline leader, Momcilo Krajisnik, finally got to see the map, "he went apoplectic", a witness said.

If Dayton was a learning process for the Serbs, they were not alone. "The Bosnians are going to need a lot of help if they are not to be completely dominated by the Croats," a British official said. And the British view of the Americans, with whom there have been so many disagreements? "They are now more aware than perhaps they were before that Bosnia is a very complicated place," he said.

## Key role for British troops in peace force

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

The signatures on the Bosnia peace deal are expected at a ceremony in Paris in early December. It was hoped the signing, which will start the clock ticking for the deployment of the Nato peace implementation force, could take place as early as 7 December but the French have not yet fixed a date and it could be up to a week later.

At about the same time the UN Security Council is expected to authorise the Nato force, known as IFOR, to replace the UN force in Bosnia.

With supporting troops in neighbouring Croatia and Hungary, plus the Nato naval and air forces, the total Nato strength in the region may be nearer 100,000, alliance sources said yesterday.

So far, the operation — the first big land operation in Nato's

45-year history — does not have an official code-name although some documents refer to operation "Endeavour".

Yesterday, the US Defense Secretary, William Perry, said Nato would not take responsibility for aid or resettlement, but would concentrate on keeping the warring sides apart.

The land force will include 20,000 Americans, 13,000 British, 10,000 French, 4,000 Italians, 4,000 Spanish and 4,000 Canadians, plus smaller contingents from other Nato countries and up to ten outside Nato, including Sweden, Finland, the Baltic states, Pakistan, Malaysia and the Czech Republic.

Defence Ministry sources said the commitment of 13,000 British troops — who will be replaced by another 13,000 after six months — will stretch the British Army. For once, it does have enough infantry, but is short of signals troops, who will

be responsible for communications throughout the entire theatre of operations.

During the two weeks after the signing in Paris an "enabling force" of about 2,000 will flow into Sarajevo — where the Nato headquarters controlling the operation will be based — and into the cities of Tuzla and Mostar and the small town of Gornji Vakuf. They will prepare the way for the US, French and British divisions which will be based on those three centres and are expected to start moving into Bosnia in January. The US heavy equipment — including M1 Abrams tanks — will come by rail through Hungary, the British and French by sea to Split and Ploce, and possibly also to Rijeka and Podgorica in Macedonia.

The 20,000 US troops of the 1st Armoured Division, based on Tuzla in the north, are cardinal to the political and military effectiveness of the force.

They will be responsible for the Posavina corridor, the last and most contentious point of argument at the peace conference.

The US division, commanded by Major-General William Nash, is also expected to have control over a 3,000-strong Russian brigade, which will be based in its area, possibly including the area of eastern Slavonia, which is due to return to Croatia after between one and two years. These areas, unlike the more mountainous terrain to the south, are good tank country, suitable for the forces the US will deploy.

Britain is sending 13,000 troops. The 400-strong Nato Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) headquarters, which will control the operation, commanded by Lieutenant-General Mike Walker, is 60 per cent British, and is supported by a British battalion to protect it and 1 Signal Brigade, based in Germany, which will provide

communications for the entire force. Of the 2,500 headquarters force, 2,000 are British.

Britain will also send the headquarters and associated troops of its 3rd Division, commanded by Major-General Mike Jackson — another 3,000 troops — and a full fighting brigade with all its support, totalling 8,000 troops.

The British division will control the largest sector, including the area of the last fierce fighting. In addition to Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, it will have at least one regiment of Challenger tanks. The British division will also include a Canadian brigade, between 2,000 and 4,000 strong, and possibly 1,000 Malaysians.

The French 6th Light Armoured Division, to be based in Mostar, is commanded by General Robert Rideau. The French will probably command the Italian and Spanish brigades, each about 4,000



Perry: Keeping the warring sides apart

strong. The French will be responsible for Gorazde and Sarajevo.

Belgium and the Netherlands are expected to provide a joint brigade about 3,000 strong. Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will provide a "Nordic battalion", about 1,000 strong. There will be similar-sized groups from Turkey and Norway. Portugal, Denmark and the Czech Republic will provide about 600 each.

## All sides pledge not to shoot at Nato

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

The Clinton administration has obtained letters from the Presidents of Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia pledging the safety of the 60,000 US and Nato troops who will be deployed in Bosnia under last week's Dayton deal.

The almost identically worded letters, signed by Presidents Franjo Tudjman, Alija Izetbegovic and Slobodan Milosevic before they left Ohio, promise "all possible measures to ensure the safety" of the peace-keepers. They were released yesterday, to help build public support before President Bill Clinton's TV address on Monday in which he will make the case for sending US troops to the Balkans.

Legally there is no obstacle to the President acting on his own. But an explicit gesture of support from Congress would

provide essential political cover should things go wrong, and the Nato force suffer appreciable casualties. And many of the Republicans whose co-operation will be essential for an agreement on balancing the budget are highly wary of committing US troops.

Failure by the US to send its 20,000-man contingent would doom the entire mission. Both Britain and France have made clear they would pull out if Washington had second thoughts — which officials warn will happen if fighting restarts before the deployment starts in earnest, some time next month.

But William Perry, the Defense Secretary, told soldiers of the 1st Armoured Division at their base in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, yesterday that he expected no organised opposition to the Nato presence, though there might be harassment by what he described as "gangs".

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## PEACE IN THE BALKANS

## Muslim troops loot UN base in Bosnia

EMMA DALY  
Tuzla

Bangladeshi peace-keepers in northern Bosnia came under fire late on Thursday night from Bosnian soldiers who stormed their compound and looted warehouses, prompting an angry protest from UN commanders. The Bangladeshis, based in Velika Kladusa, on the border with Croatia, were due to leave the area yesterday: it seems a section of the Bosnian army sought to make the most of their departure.

Although there were no casualties in the attack, it is the kind of incident that might engender second thoughts in the United States about sending troops to enforce the Dayton peace deal. Bosnian authorities have promised to investigate the incident and resolve it, which means returning the stolen property. UN sources said, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia, met Hasan Muratovic, minister for liaison with the UN, while Colonel Erik Dam, the UN commander in Bihac, held

talks with General Atif Dudakovic, commander of the Bosnian Fifth Corps.

Colonel Dam said General Dudakovic denied all knowledge of the attack, but promised to identify the culprits. "It was a well-planned operation," the colonel said by telephone from Bihac.

At around midnight, a convoy of 35 trucks approached the UN base at Velika Kladusa, which houses 80 soldiers from the Bangladeshi battalion, and requested permission to enter. Refused, the men began to move the gate, prompting the Bangladeshi guard to fire warning shots in the air. A full-scale attack began, which was supported, Colonel Dam said, by three machine-gun positions on the hills around the base.

The colonel, alerted by telephone, drove north to Velika Kladusa but was delayed on his journey that night by eight check-points manned by Bosnian military police. Once inside the camp, the colonel remonstrated with the looters, who included around 200 men in uniform and 100 civilians. But

he was forced to retreat, and sought the help of civilian police. They refused to intervene as it was a military situation.

The 35 trucks departed at dawn, carrying 20,000 litres of fuel and portable generators. The convoy was swollen by the addition of eight stolen armoured personnel carriers. The Bangladeshi commander had neither the men nor the weapons to defend the camp, and ordered his troops to collect in the central building. "They were very, very shocked when they realised it was Muslims shooting at Bangladeshi soldiers," Colonel Dam said. "I'm still asking why did they do this at this time, because they are spoiling so much for so little - it's bad timing."

There is already concern among UN officials that rebel Serbs might try to scupper the agreement by attacking peace-keepers in the hope of deterring the arrival of US troops to police the deal. Looting of UN bases by the Bosnian army, which should, in theory, welcome Nato's arrival, can only confuse the picture.

Despite the reported acceptance of the peace deal by the Bosnian Serb leaders - not yet confirmed - resistance persisted among local Serbs living around the capital. Three Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo, Vogosca, Hadzici and Ilidza, have rejected the peace accord, under which they would return to Bosnian government control. The suburbs have called for increased "military readiness".

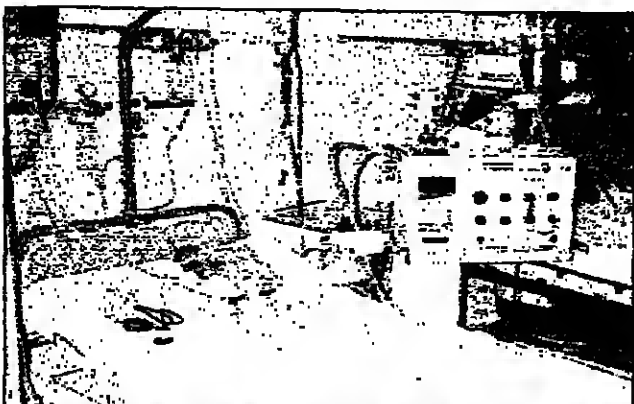
In another suburb, due to change hands, Grbavica, small arms and machine-gun fire rang out along front lines. The Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA reported that "several hundred" flag-waving students, joined by Bosnian Serb soldiers demonstrated in Ilidza against the peace agreement.

Bosnian Serb leaders, including Radovan Karadzic, met local officials from the Serb-held suburbs to discuss the US-backed plan that would force them to relinquish their hold on parts of the capital. Mr Karadzic made no comment as he and his deputy, Momcilo Krajisnik, met leaders of the "war councils" of the Serb-held districts.



Bitter smile: Radovan Karadzic making his first public appearance since the peace deal in Pale

Photograph: AP



Waiting for help: Najla Aleduz, struck down by paralysis following a routine immunisation injection, is being kept alive by a ventilator designed for adult use

## £35,000 needed to help end a nightmare

JOJO MOYES

Doctors have launched an urgent appeal for equipment which may help save the life of a three year old Bosnian girl.

Najla Aleduz was struck down with paralysis following a routine immunisation injection. She cannot move or talk and is being kept alive by Kosevo Hospital's only ventilator, which was designed for adult use.

"She feels pain and sensations completely normally. She can see but she can't talk. It's a nightmare. It's about the worst thing that could happen to a child," said Professor David Southall, a founder of the charity Child Advocacy, whose paediatric team is treating the child in Sarajevo.

It is urgently seeking £35,000 to purchase a child's ventilator and monitoring equipment, while tests continue to find out what has caused Najla's sickness. At the moment, the child has been given a 25 per cent chance of recovery but doctors are not optimistic.

"It could take her months to recover, if at all, and in the meantime there are other sick patients who desperately need to use the equipment," said Professor Southall.

Paediatricians treating Najla have decided it is in the child's best interests to remain at the hospital.

If the worst came to the worst, Professor Southall said, at least the equipment would be available for use by other sick children.

"We are of course extremely relieved that the war has ended, but its going to take at least five years for the care infrastructure to be repaired and for specialist doctors who can treat such a child to return and be effective," he said.

"I don't think the British public understands how little equipment or how few doctors these hospitals have got."

The RAF yesterday flew out



emergency supplies of intravenous immunoglobulin to help treat Najla, an only child. Meanwhile, her parents keep a round-the-clock vigil, awaiting signs of recovery.

Child Advocacy International is one of the four charities being supported by the Independent Children of War Christmas Appeal. The other three charities are:

Save the Children, whose main effort is focused on children who have been separated from their families, counselling and reuniting them;

The International Red Cross, which is conducting the largest humanitarian enterprise in the region, looking after large camps of refugees, and linking people through its famous messaging network;

War Child, which plans to build a £2.5m music therapy centre in Mostar, and to send urgently needed prosthetics out to wounded children in the Tuzla area;

Please make out cheques for the charity you wish to support. People wishing to help Najla Aleduz immediately can telephone Child Advocacy on 01782 712599 or 0421 378494.

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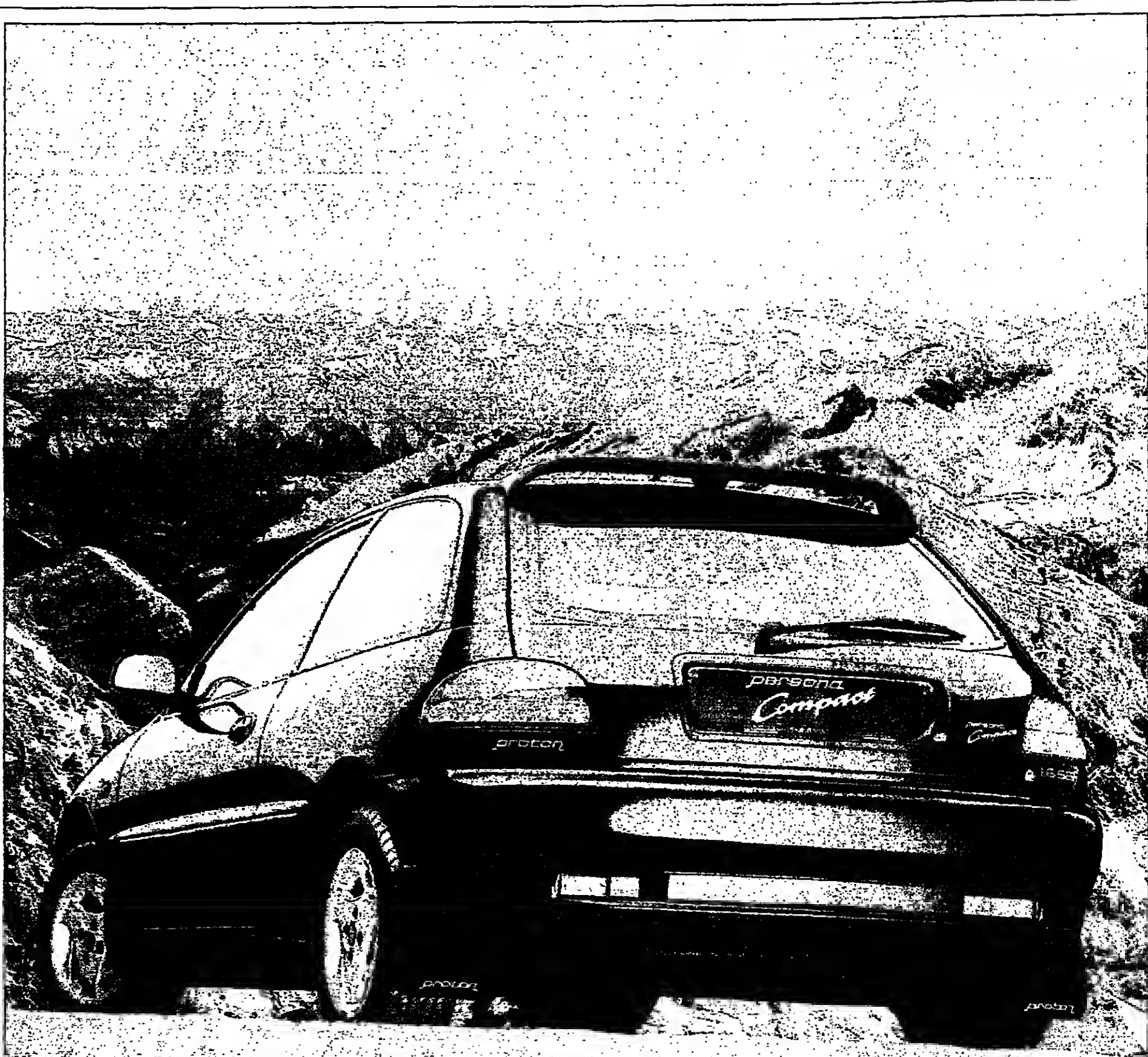
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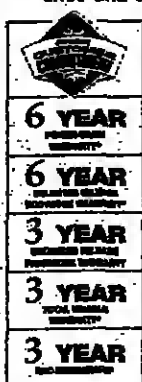
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Soaked: A peanut farmer wading through storm water in south-east Queensland, Australia. After two years of drought – the longest in memory – the area has received up to 250mm (10in) of rain in the past week  
Photograph: Patrick Hamilton/Reuters

**Tyranny In Nigeria:** Abacha junta tries desperately to limit damage caused by hanging of Saro-Wiwa

## Generals move to the offensive

DAVID ORR  
Lagos

As pressure mounts for tougher measures against Nigeria, it appears the country's dictator, General Sani Abacha, is searching desperately for a damage-limitation programme.

He apparently did not foresee the international opprobrium which followed the executions of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other minority-rights activists two weeks ago. The cabinet, which had met only three times in the past year, convened in emergency session for two days running this week to devise a strategy in response to the outbursts of international outrage over the hangings. A 33-member National Committee of Traditional Rulers and Leaders

of Thought has been assembled to advise the cabinet in the face of Nigeria's growing isolation.

If General Abacha misjudged international opinion, it is also true the world failed to understand him. Diplomats here – those who remain since more than 30 were withdrawn in protest over the executions – are asking themselves what it is that impels such a regime to behave as it does. It had become obvious long before the executions that Nigeria's rulers are not motivated by the concerns of ordinary politicians. Having ousted a four-month-old civilian government – the only one in 12 years of otherwise uninterrupted military rule – General Abacha demolished all democratic institutions. Hundreds of opponents of the government have been detained under military decree.

This is a regime that does not believe in the rule of law. Those who stand in General Abacha's way are regarded as enemies and dealt with summarily. This is not a government which entertains notions of public accountability. He has never held a news conference and has granted only a single interview. His speeches and public appearances are rare; he remains largely inscrutable, receiving visitors late at night or in the early hours of the morning.

"His fellow officers fear rather than respect him," says a newspaper editor. "He is very strong-willed and has deadly instincts. He is ruthless, ready to stake his life on what he is doing. There is little chance of a coup to oust him, because he is so powerful and has such a firm grip on the nation's security apparatus. He's a good infantry man, very strong on tactics."

The longest-serving high-ranking officer in the current regime, General Abacha received his military training in Britain in the Sixties and Seventies. He became Chief of Army Staff in 1985 and later Minister of Defence. He played a brisk game of double-dealing during the short-lived civilian government of 1993 before installing himself in power in November of that year.

"He obviously felt it was his turn to hold the reins and, given the mess that preceded him, many regarded him as a sort of saviour," says a diplomat. "He's clearly got no ideological position and in a sense he's got little political ambition. He's first and foremost a military man and he regards power as a reward in itself." The cynical view is that the military's aim is to line

their pockets while wearing smart uniforms: certainly there are ample opportunities for top brass to secure hefty kick-backs from awarding contracts to the highest bidders.

"They're a greedy, ill-educated, useless bunch who've no idea how to run a modern country," says a diplomat. But there may be more to it than that: one editor suggests General Abacha and his cronies believe they are acting in Nigeria's best interests.

The military believe the political class is unfit to govern. Nigeria has been ruled by military juntas for 25 of the past 35 years. If their record has not been exemplary, it cannot be said civilian governments have fared much better in improving the lot of ordinary Nigerians.

Unlike civilian politicians, who are led by largely ethnic and sectional interests, the army is recruited on a broad cross-regional basis; there is a deep-rooted commitment to the preservation of the Nigerian federation. Some professionals and businessmen concede that the economy – for better-off



Abacha: Believes he acts in Nigeria's best interests

Nigerians at least – is looking healthier since General Abacha introduced liberalising measures earlier this year.

But the competence of the military to govern, at the most basic level, is open to doubt. The country is falling apart: people are struggling to put food on their tables; crime and corruption are endemic. "There is no real organisation," says one diplomat. There is a story of one minister sacked last March who, during 15 months in government, sent only two memos to General Abacha. He received no reply to either.

The three-year period of transition to civilian rule announced on 1 October is already off the rails.

There has been no approval of a draft constitution, no electoral commission has been appointed, nor have other key committees been set up.

## Drug lord turns Cambodia into a 'mafia state'

STEPHEN VINES  
Hong Kong

It was not supposed to turn out like this. The international community, through the United Nations, spent an unprecedented \$3bn to shepherd Cambodia towards democracy, protect it from the Khmer Rouge and install a democratically elected government.

Disillusion is too weak a word to describe what has happened since the last United Nations troops pulled out in 1993. The hoped-for democracy has been replaced by an increasingly intolerant and ruthless government with strong ties to big-league drug smugglers. The voices of opposition are being quickly snuffed out.

The most recent opposition figure to feel the government's wrath is Prince Norodom Sirivudh, half-brother of King Norodom Sihanouk, and uncle of Norodom Ranariddh, who is supposed to be one of Cambodia's co-prime ministers.

In theory the ties of family should have made him safe but his arrest on sketchy charges of attempting to assassinate the other co-prime minister, Hun Sen, speaks volumes about who is really in charge.

Prince Sirivudh is both an MP and secretary-general of the royalist Funcinpec party, which won the election.

Mr Hun Sen's former Communist Cambodian People's Party was brought into the government in an attempt to secure national reconciliation.

Yet it is Mr Hun Sen and his colleagues who call the shots and in effect tell the royal family what to do.

Mr Hun Sen is a sombre 44-year-old, whose guerrilla back-

ground in the Khmer Rouge left an instinct for authoritarian government.

The only pressure King Sihanouk appeared to be able to exert on his half-brother's behalf was to get him moved from the T-3 prison to the less uncomfortable surroundings of detention in the Ministry of the Interior.

Some observers in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, remain unsure how Mr Hun Sen managed to achieve what amounts to a coup d'état. Others maintain that it comes down to a matter of money.

Mr Hun Sen was prepared to throw in his lot with the shadowy businessman Theng Bunma, who is not only reputed to be the richest man in Cambodia but also an international-league drug-runner.

The funds supplied by Mr Bunma and his associates are said to have provided the means to secure the loyalty of a large section of the state apparatus, particularly the armed forces, whose allegiance to ideology is far weaker than their need for money. In return, the Hun Sen-led government has allowed Cambodia to become a major drug-trafficking centre.

The most vocal critic of government corruption, the former finance minister Sam Rainsy, is dicing with death by breaking with the regime and attempting to establish an opposition party. He describes Cambodia as a "mafia state".

Cambodian journalists who have attempted to expose government corruption are no less vulnerable. The editor of the *Voice of Khmer Youth* was shot dead after publishing a detailed expose of Mr Bunma's background and drug dealing.

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Princess Diana hit Buenos Aires this week after dropping her bombshell on 'Panorama'. Phil Davison reports on her mixed reception



## The roving ambassador starts work

The tango metaphors were inevitable. The royal correspondents and photographers who came to Argentina with the Princess of Wales were praying that President Carlos Menem, a tango aficionado, would grab Diana for a post-lunch cheek-to-cheek.

The image of the little president with the tinged hair and Cuban heels propelling the princess across the dance floor was just too tempting. But by all accounts, their lunch at the presidential residence of Los Olivos yesterday adhered strictly to protocol, with the president's daughter acting as First Lady.

It was, however, a tango of sorts that Princess Diana embarked on when she touched down in Buenos Aires on Thursday morning. It was billed by the princess and the embassy as a Mother Teresa-style visit by invitation from Argentinian charities, but she was by far the highest-profile British visitor to these shores since the Falklands war.

And for the princess it was a chance to prove her fitness for the role of "roving ambassador" - the job she asked for in her explosive *Panorama* interview, shown on the eve of her visit.

If she came as a goodwill ambassador, she was greeted with everything from mild hostility, through widespread indifference, to curiosity and even star-worship.

For the latter, Argentinians have rather a nice-sounding word, *cholo*, roughly translatable as "being star-struck". With the possible exception of Maradona, Mr Menem is considered at once its leading subject and practitioner.

He has posed with the Rolling Stones and played football with Maradona, and his private life has become one of the country's most

closely-followed soap operas, featuring his broken marriage and alleged affairs. Yesterday, it was the princess's turn to experience the charm of the man they call "el Jefe" - the chief.

According to British officials, Princess Diana would not talk politics. But most Argentinian analysts said the president would have found a polite way of raising the Falklands, still a burning issue here. After the princess has gone, he can be expected to spread the word that Diana's visit was a key step in his stated effort to win the Atlantic islands back by diplomacy by the end of the decade.

She was invited to Argentina by a group of charities representing her favourite causes ("battered this, battered that" as she described them to Martin Bashir). But in Argentina there has been speculation that the foreign ministry was behind the invitation - keen to gain the public relations coup of her visit.

Her entourage was small. She was accompanied by a detective and a lady in waiting and her press secretary, Geoffrey Crawford. He announced that he is leaving her service, as he was kept in the dark as she prepared her *Panorama* interview. Contact between the two has been minimal during the visit, which Mr Crawford was unable to avoid. The princess is staying at the British embassy's residence, and although embassy staff stress that the visit is not an official one, they give the princess regular briefings.

Above all, the audience for this visit is the international press corps. At several visits the crowds attracted by the princess have been outnumbered by reporters and photographers. Their work started on the British Airways flight when tabloid

reporters who had forked out serious money to share the first-class section of the aircraft with the princess, no doubt hoping she might pour out her heart, found themselves "scooped" by a local paper reporter - who was not even on the flight.

An enterprising journalist from the Argentinian daily *Clarín* managed to get the seat behind the princess and reported in great detail how she had rubbed cream on her legs and read a book entitled *The Manual of Mental Health*. However, the same newspaper reported that the princess was accompanied by a certain aristocrat called Lady Inwaiting.

The princess was herself almost scooped by Salman Rushdie, who surfaced here just before she did, giving a series of interviews to push his book *The Moor's Last Sigh*. Then she had to compete for headlines with Maradona, who "disappeared" when he was supposed to be training for a key match. He later resurfaced, grabbing the headlines again.

Then there was the story of a former Nazi, Erich Priebke, extradited to Italy last week to face charges that he helped to massacre more than 300 Italians during the war. It was not the extradition itself that grabbed attention but the fact that local Argentinian policemen gave him warm hugs before he boarded his plane.

But Diana outlasted them all, largely thanks to the interview, which turned what would have been a relatively low-key visit for Argentinians - who are by and large not interested in the British or in monarchies - into front-page news. The famous interview undoubtedly deflected attention from the



princess's charitable goal. While the vast majority of Argentinians had expressed a total lack of interest in her visit, the headlines along the lines of "I did it with my riding instructor" stirred a certain amount of curiosity.

Those who watched extracts from the interview, with a Spanish voiceover, engaged in this country's leading middle-class pastime - psychoanalysis. Many spoke of "the sadness in her eyes." That led them

to be pleasantly surprised when she emerged breezy and beaming here on Thursday.

She soon earned herself a new nickname. "The mute princess," said the leading daily *La Nación*, describing her habit of pretending the 350 closely-following newsmen did not exist.

That was somewhat unfair, for she happily spoke through an interpreter to disabled children, battered wives and others at a series of homes and hospitals. When a 30-year-old woman with one leg said she was training to swim the Channel in 1997, the princess told her to get in touch, via the embassy, beforehand and "I'll see what I can do to help." Her credentials as an ambassador - or indeed an international "Queen of Hearts" were most obvious here - there did seem to be a genuine rapport when she met ordinary people.

When 69-year-old Amira Chede shouted "Diana, mi amor" from behind a barrier outside the Garrahan paediatric hospital, the princess walked over and gave her a kiss. "Don't worry, all women are with you," Mrs Chede said in Spanish. The princess may not have understood the words but Mrs Chede's solidarity was clearly related to the *Panorama* interview.

While she was warmly welcomed by most of those she met, there was a *leitmotif* of sarcasm in most of the local press coverage. "She's like a fish in water," meaning "she feels right at home," wrote a columnist in the daily *Página 12* who suggested

the visit was essentially a propaganda exercise orchestrated by Mr Menem to divert attention from the country's economic woes.

The fact that she was so much taller than Mr Menem - in fact than most people she met - was also a talking point. "If she hadn't been a princess, she could have been a basketball player," wrote a local reporter. And a local TV talk-show host hounded the princess throughout the early part of her trip, at one point shouting: "I love you, Lady," and tossing her a fluffy toy.

Since the visit was described as unofficial - "a private visit with elements of work," said the British embassy - the princess aroused little interest in Argentine political circles. Her itinerary was kept well away from controversy, avoiding such traps as the capital's central Plaza de Mayo where, on the day she arrived, the so-called Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo were demonstrating, as they do every Thursday, in favour of action against those who "disappeared" their sons and daughters during the so-called Dirty War of the military regimes of the Seventies.

Many Argentinians said Prince Charles might have elicited more vocal protests among those who demand the return of the Falklands to Argentine sovereignty, but that the Princess had to a certain extent disarmed such people.

There were hardly any protests as she went from venue to venue - although one woman, the mother of a soldier killed in the Falklands, shouted insults at her before being hustled away by police. Later a senior Argentinian naval officer, Admiral Enrique Molina Pico, expressed sympathy for the woman: "I understand and respect her personal feelings ... and if the lady

really suffered the loss of a son, which is a loss that has no parallel, well, she expressed her feelings."

Some Falklands war veterans said the visit was inappropriate and designed to "seduce public opinion and cast a smokescreen over the debate about the sovereignty of our Malvinas." But others said it might help to create warmer relations between Britain and Argentina.

The princess herself had used a similar phrase during the *Panorama* interview. Here, the phrase is often seen as a euphemism for Britain eventually ceding the Falklands.

Today the princess visits the small Patagonian town of Gaiman. She will sail in a catamaran in the hope of seeing the renowned friendly whales jumping off the Atlantic coast before taking tea and cakes in a traditional Welsh tea house in Gaiman.

The locals, most of whom arrived from Wales at the end of the 19th century, still speak Welsh and she will be greeted by Welsh singing and dancing. The small minority who do oppose her visit, saying she represents "the usurper monarchy which enslaved Wales," have promised to stay at home.

At least among the *farandula*, the local in-crowd of artists and stars with whom Mr Menem likes to be seen, her visit was the highlight at least of the month. Invitations to her private dinner with the British ambassador, Sir Peter Hall, on Thursday night were more coveted than tickets for tomorrow's crucial football league match between Maradona's Boca Juniors and river Plate.

"They were murdering each other to get the ambassador to invite them," said an embassy staffer.

## Jo Brand's week

The end of the tour seems to be in sight. Theoretically, sitting in a car for a few hours a day and then delivering an hour's worth of comedy shouldn't be too wearing, but we are knackered. Perhaps if we went to bed at 11 with cocoa and a hot water bottle every night we wouldn't be, but the whole tour crew has developed an obsession with the nastiest card game ever invented - Black Maria, the main object of which seems to be to dump the Queen of Spades on an opponent, losing them 50 points. Feelings run very high and it becomes clearer and clearer to me how wars start.

Touring gives you a real insight into local mentalities too, from Aberystwyth, where front-page news is that someone has broken into a phone box, to Nottingham, where on a Tuesday night at 7.30 the whole audience seemed to be mad, drunk and slightly hysterical (why Tuesday?). Hull proved, against expectations, to be a joy, despite the fact that a visit to a fantastic women's centre on a very deprived estate resulted in a few kids jumping up and down on the car and denting the roof. They also reminded us of a few choice Anglo-Saxon words in the dust on the car. I was just glad they didn't nick it, really.

I enjoyed the reaction to the Diana *Panorama* extravaganza more than I enjoyed the programme itself - the *Daily Telegraph* letters page excelled itself with Lady Someone-or-other regretting the demise of the role of the Tower of London and some bloke called Kevin (who's probably just been chucked by a woman) portraying the whole shebang as an exercise in cunning female wiles. The Hewitt geezer comes out of the whole thing as a waste of space. He is reported as saying he helped Diana a lot. If blowing the gaff on their intimate secrets is helping a lot, then I am a catwalk model.

The chief executive of Yorkshire Television has said that ITV viewers are not greatly interested in serious news at peak viewing times. He feels that what they want is news that affects them personally from their own region. I have been on the receiving end over the past six weeks of numerous local news programmes and I am fairly sure that is not what they want, unless of course they live in the Gloucester area, where they would be fed an endless diet of gore and human failings in the West case.

If television companies are going to personalise the news, why don't

they just have a separate news programme for each family? This could report on how grandma did at the bingo or feature mum's corns or the children's recent marks for geography homework.

Antipodeans are none too keen on our figureheads. Apparently, not content with attempting to oust the Queen, they are now having a pop at her understudy, Baroness Thatcher. Four members of the New South Wales



Why don't they love her?



parliament walked out when she was allowed the rare privilege of sitting in a ceremonial chair. Any throne will do, it seems.

Klingon, the language from *Star Trek*, can now be studied at degree level. How very useful ... and I thought a joint sociology and psychology degree might not go far in the job market. Anita Karr, who at least acknowledges herself as a sad old Trekkie, remarks that the Bible is being translated into Klingon as well, although why that should encourage Trekkies to read it is beyond me.

Many comics on the comedy circuit



Why do they love him?

are fans of *Star Trek* and include routines about it in their sets. I'm afraid these hits bore me to tears, but I appreciated it one night when a comic was struggling with some *Star Trek* material and a heckler shouted out: "It's comedy, Jim - but not as we know it."

Brian Mawhinney, he of the paint-spattered jacket, has received a formal apology from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, because it took 18 minutes for the police to arrive on the scene. He remarked that the officers involved are "very distressed". I bet they are, after they've had the biggest bollocking of their career. Thank God it was only Mr Mawhinney's dignity that was hurt.

I thought the reason given for the delay was fantastic. The call was relayed to a special operations centre which had been closed by the time the call was passed on. Which special operations centre would that be, then? The one dealing with Queen Victoria's coronation, or maybe the one set up to tackle those dreadful suffragettes? Reassuring to know the rozzers are on the ball, isn't it?

Diverse musical taste is always a problem in the car on tour, with neither myself, the tour manager, or the other act really wanting to force our preferences on the others. This has resulted in quite a lot of Radio 1 at various times and the realisation that certain songs are played endlessly. The only song that gets the thumbs-up on the increased volume scale is "Gangsta's Paradise" by Coolio and LV, because this is a brilliant reworking of a great Stevie Wonder song. Cover versions as usual abound on the airwaves, being distinguished mainly by the fact that the original was better. Please, can someone write some new good songs before I smash the radio up?

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## Saved by Uncle Sam – but what about next time?

"You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing," said Winston Churchill, "after they have exhausted all the alternatives." This week, the old adage proved true again, when belated US intervention brokered a peace deal in Bosnia. At last the Americans showed some leadership, but only after they and their European partners had dithered for the best part of four years.

It was, in the end, the Americans who made the difference. This was the first major war in mid-Europe since 1945. It was a war that saw the return of concentration camps and genocide. Yet the Europeans, with their petty, national concerns, demonstrated that they were not up to the task of settling the conflict. The development of the European Union and other international institutions may suggest that the bad old days of nationalist rivalry have been replaced by co-operation. But the Bosnian debacle has illustrated Europe's inability to act in concert on security issues. We are not yet ready to shake off 50 years of dependence on Washington.

The problems that stand in the way of common European action remain significant. The United States may be gridlocked by the separation of powers, but at least it is a single nation state with a common language. Europe is badly handicapped by having several languages and by each nation jealously guarding its own sovereignty.

In Bosnia, President Clinton arrived with his cavalry in the nick of time. Matters had seriously deteriorated: the conflict had left Britain



and France more estranged from Washington than at any time since the Suez crisis in 1956. Like Roosevelt before him in the Second World War, President Clinton was portrayed as successfully resisting isolationism within the US Congress. He offered the resources of the New World to sort out the problems of the Old. In the process he, at least temporarily, bolstered Nato, a shaky edifice which the Bosnian issue might easily have destroyed. The US holds up Nato like a tent pole, while other nations provide the pegs. Without the pole, the tent would collapse.

So are we now back to normal? Does the settling of the Bosnian war and the manner of peace-making mean that the North Atlantic relationship is once again secure? Have political analysts been wrong to predict that, with the end of the Cold War, the United States, captivated by economic growth in the Pacific Rim, will desert Europe for Asia?

Europe clearly still needs the US commitment, which is enshrined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty and marked by the presence of over 100,000 US troops on the Continent. The Americans in effect subsidise Europe's defence to the tune of \$90bn a year. We have struck a bargain with them: they patrol our territory and in exchange give us access, via Nato, to their huge stockpile of equipment, their transport capacity and their ability to gather intelligence. It's a cheap deal for Europe.

But is it reliable? The Americans still have much to gain from close involvement across the

pond. After all, the European Union is still America's most important trading partner. And although the Cold War is over, US fears about potential threats from the east remain. No one knows how aggressive the Russians could prove to be: elections there next month could offer some indication. With Poland electing a neo-communist president this week, it is unclear where the dividing line between east and west will be drawn. So a large-scale withdrawal from Europe would be against US interests.

But Europeans would be foolish to think that the Bosnian agreement has resolved American ambivalence towards military engagement in Europe. The Republican-controlled Congress is determined to leave the Continent to its own devices. Indeed it was the action of Congress, in calling for an end to the arms embargo imposed on the Bosnian Muslims, that forced Clinton to intervene.

An end to the embargo would have required a withdrawal by the United Nations, which Clinton had promised to back up with 25,000 US troops. Had he kept that promise, he could have found himself going into election year with a potential foreign policy disaster on his hands.

In short, Bosnia was a special case. The White House was galvanised largely by domestic considerations into offering leadership. The president wished to avoid being accused of wasting taxpayers' dollars and risking American lives in a country about which voters know very little. This is the Clinton style: he does not

have a grand vision of what to do abroad – he has a re-election strategy. When he arrives here next week, we will once again see his parochialism, how domestic concerns drive his foreign policy. Keen to garner Irish-American votes, he will do all he can to secure some movement in Ulster's peace process.

American intervention in and commitment to Europe, despite the Bosnian episode, remains uncertain and fragile. This is a sobering thought. For parts of Europe remain potential scenes of violent conflict. And there is no reason to believe that next time Europe will do any better than its ignominious performance in Bosnia. Waiting for President Clinton to have the time and inclination to step in is both risky and an abdication of responsibility. It cost hundreds of thousands of lives in former Yugoslavia.

To date, the Europeans have done little to address this source of instability. They have made scant progress on developing a separate nuclear umbrella, which would be founded on the weapons held by Britain and France. Co-operation on defence matters is in its infancy, undermined by the anti-federalism that is growing in member states of the European Union. As a result, the only option is to prop up a weakened Nato relationship whose life expectancy is unclear.

The Bosnian episode has shown how much Europe still needs the United States, even in its own back yard. The problem is that there is no guarantee that, in future, the United States will be prepared to act.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Farewell to the spirit of '68

From Mr Seamus Murphy  
Sir: As a member of generation Y, I am proud to salute the endeavours of my more active brethren in taking to the streets to protest against the penny-pinching Government ("Students march against cash cuts", 24 November). Alas, little do they seem to realise that the spirit of '68 has lost its resonance. How can students protest about student grants and loans, about the drop in government funding, when faced with the reality of state spending in the 1990s? Students are privileged to have their fees paid, a fact their US counterparts do not share. Although I would not advocate the same system, perhaps the solution lies in the Antipodes, where a graduate tax is used that would overcome the nonsense that is the loan system. Yours faithfully, SEAMUS MURPHY, London, SE24 24 November

From Mr Jonathan Youens  
Sir: Your editorial this morning ("Let students pay – it's only fair", 24 November) is very pertinent but you miss one fundamental point. There is already

a graduate tax. By improving employment prospects through further education, the earning potential of a graduate is increased and thus the Revenue benefits from increased tax payments for years to come without the need for an extra levy. If a graduate ends up taking a lower-paid job such as teaching or in the health services, then surely we are getting our money's worth. Yours faithfully, JONATHAN YOUENS, Sidcup 24 November

From Mr E. P. Moisson  
Sir: I was saddened to read of the impact of heavy rain upon the radicals of Paris ("Students take to the streets in '68 style", 22 November). One is reminded of the crowds being bailed for similar reasons some 200 years ago, thus failing to prevent the execution of Robespierre.

Must inclement weather always thwart the noble stride of revolution? Yours, E. P. MOISSON, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge 22 November



Before the rain: students in Paris last week Reuters

### Tighter net on asylum

From Ms Maria Fernandes  
Sir: Mr Deva's article (Another view: "Fair and firm on immigration", 22 November) is chilling, not only because he rejects allegations that the Government is playing the race card, but because he puts economic arguments before democratic values. His article gives us an insight into the real aim of the legislation. He says that applications have risen and that "unless something is done now" the upward trend will continue. Further on in the article he refers to the Bill being about efficiency.

Michael Howard claimed that the aim of the Bill was to deter bogus asylum-seekers and illegal immigrants. It was not about restricting numbers. Yet the Bill will prevent all asylum-seekers from making in-country applications. Seventy per cent of applications are made after entry, the majority within a week of arriving. Many do not speak the language, are suspicious of those in authority and are confused and tired, having been tortured and imprisoned abroad. With one stroke the Government treats these people as bogus applicants.

There is no doubt that this move will save a lot of money. Denying them benefits and housing will save further sums, and at the same time deter others from applying. There is increasing evidence that detention is already used as a means of deterring applications. Coupled with these further restrictions, the asylum-seeker can expect the net to close in on him.

This is the sixth Bill to be passed in the past 16 years. The last one was only two years ago, and had the same aim. It has failed to address the real problems. Speeding up applications would be far more effective in weeding out bogus applicants. Exploiting a vulnerable group will undoubtedly make huge sums available to the public coffers. But at what cost? Yours sincerely, MARIA FERNANDES, Fernandes Vaz Solicitors, London, NW2 23 November

The writer is an executive member of the Law Society's sub-committee on immigration.

### Voting system causes apathy

From Ms Caroline Ellis  
Sir: Perhaps part of the reason for the public apathy towards party politics ("Party politics turns Britain into an apathetic nation", 23 November) lies in the fact that political parties increasingly seem to have lost interest in the needs and concerns of the voters.

The first-past-the-post voting system based on the ethos of "to the victor the spoils" militates against any meaningful relationship between the people and the politicians. Under our current voting system, parties are not required to fight hard for every single constituency – apart from the 100-odd marginal seats, the result is a foregone conclusion.

The second feature of the first-past-the-post system is that it discourages political pluralism, with the manifestos of each of the main parties increasingly coming to resemble each other as they fight to occupy the same narrow political ground.

Herein lies part of the reason for the apparent shift towards punitive and authoritarian attitudes to civil rights, since politicians increasingly dare not speak up for people with lifestyles that diverge from "the norm" and fear the consequences of defending basic principles of human rights against populist authoritarianism – the lack of parliamentary opposition to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act being a recent case in point.

Yours sincerely, CAROLINE ELLIS, Charter 88, London, EC1 23 November

### A great British war novelist

From Mr Alex Revell  
Sir: In his review of *The Flower of Battle* (Books, 18 November), Mark Bostridge commented: "Britain didn't produce a war novelist of the stature of Remarque, and it is perhaps regrettable that what is without doubt the greatest British novel of the war, Frederic Manning's *The Middle Parts of Fortune*, receives only a passing mention."

While agreeing that the Manning book is superb, I cannot agree that Britain did not produce a war novelist to match Remarque. *Winged Victory* by V. M. Yeates is the equal, if not superior, to both the Manning and Remarque books. Like them, and Sassoon's *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer*, it is autobiographical fiction and is a masterpiece of evocative writing. The subject is the air war of 1918 – Yeates was a fighter pilot – and many pilots of that war have commented to me: "That's exactly how it was."

With Yeates' early death Britain lost a great novelist. Yours faithfully, ALEX REVELL, Hayle, Cornwall 20 November

### The example of royal Europe

From Mr F. M. M. Steiner  
Sir: In castigating the Little Englanders Polly Toynbee ("... the monarchy must quit its infantile fairyland", 22 November) overlooks the fact that she seems to be one of them herself. There is nothing in her article about the experience of half a dozen other EU countries that are constitutional monarchies; they do have written constitutions and do not have the wholly excessive concentration of power in the hands of their prime ministers. What people who talk of Disneyland and soap operas also disregard is the part played in the affairs of the state by the monarchs concerned. Except for Sweden, none of those kingdoms has the separation between Crown and state mentioned by Andrew Marr ("The tale of Diana's revenge", 22 November), and in some cases, such as Spain, the personal influence of the head of state markedly exceeds his formal powers.

There is no reason why a modern constitution should be less compatible with a constitutional monarchy in this country than elsewhere in Europe, particularly if the system were adjusted to take account of the changes in this country's economic and international power and position, since the Queen's accession in 1952.

Yours faithfully, F. M. M. STEINER, Deddington, Oxfordshire 22 November

From Ms Patricia Graham  
Sir: Germaine Greer (24 November) describes the sad history of previous Princesses of Wales. Reading an account of the twilight of the Hapsburg Empire, I am struck by the similarities between Princess Diana and Elizabeth of Bavaria – the celebrated "Sisi" – Empress to Franz Joseph of Austria.

Married in 1854 at 16 years of age, she was celebrated from the outset for her beauty and lively disposition. The famous painting by Winterhalter showed her in 1867 in a magnificent white ball dress, her hair ornately plaited and interlaced with diamond stars, a veritable dream princess. Four years into the marriage, however, after the birth of a Crown Prince, she had already begun to exhibit symptoms similar to those described by the present Princess of Wales. She suffered throughout her subsequent life from an eating disorder, which made her as "thin as a beanpole" and developed a passion for gymnastics. Her private gymnasium is still to be seen in the Hofburg Palace.

No doubt part cause of the disorder was the stifling atmosphere of the court of Vienna.

Yours faithfully, STEWART GOTT, Orpington, Kent 23 November

### The rights of fish

From Mr Patrick Sergeant  
Sir: I refer to Sister Olga Millicent's letter of 21 November and wonder about the fish that went with the loaves. Yours faithfully, PATRICK SERGEANT, Farnham, Suffolk 21 November

and the constant intervention in the lives of the imperial couple of the Empress Dowager, her own aunt, Sophia of Bavaria. It seems likely, too, that she was uninspired by her worthy but pedantic husband.

Sisi came to be regarded by her enemies and to some considerable extent by the Viennese public as "mad". By contrast, in Hungary, she was received with great affection, not least for her efforts to learn Magyar. She became an ally of the Prime Minister, Count Andrássy, and had some success in building support for the Hapsburgs against the rising tide of Magyar nationalism. For the rest, unable to settle in Vienna, she travelled fitfully about Europe, while pursuing a variety of cultural enthusiasms.

The Emperor was involved in a series of extra-marital liaisons, which Sisi tolerated and even encouraged, but his affection for her did not alter. Sisi's life was marked by tragedy, including the early death of her eldest daughter, Sophie and the suicide at Mayerling of her only son, the Crown Prince Rudolf. Her sad history ended in 1898 with her assassination at the hands of an Italian anarchist while travelling in Switzerland.

Yours sincerely, PATRICK GRAHAM, Tonbridge, Kent 24 November

From Mr Stewart Gott  
Sir: In her *Panorama* interview Princess Diana suggested that her situation as estranged wife of one potential monarch and mother of another is without precedent. Two similar situations that spring to mind are those of Isabella of France (1292-1358) and Livia Drusilla (58BC-AD29). Isabella, with the assistance of her lover Roger Mortimer, succeeded in overthrowing her husband Edward II in 1326, in favour of her son Edward III. Livia, the second wife of Caesar Augustus, successfully plotted through methods that included the murder of his rivals – for the succession of her son, Tiberius.

So far, so good. However, it is worth noting that Edward III, having gained the throne, avenged the murder of his father by executing Mortimer, and so curtailed the political influence of his mother Isabella that she ended her life as a nun. Tiberius, once emperor, also threw off his mother's shackles, denying her honours and pushing her into the margins of public life.

Yours faithfully, STEWART GOTT, Orpington, Kent 23 November

### In a nutshell

From Mr Peter Hurcomb  
Sir: Duff Hart-Davis's conundrum over finding walnut shells within his walls (Weekend, 18 November) may be explained by the use (so I have been told) of nutshells as insulation by builders even during relatively recent times. As a chartered architect, I have seen them in Victorian construction. Yours faithfully, PETER HURCOMB, Bander Seri Begawan, Brunei 22 November

## DAVID AARONOVITCH

### Mutt nuts

You cannot tell from the photograph, but my long, little body is almost completely unscarred. There are no large moles, no ugly tattoos, no zipper-like appendix marks – nothing but the fading love-bites and scratches that bear testimony to the passions that I still arouse. In the physical sense I am perfect.

Or almost. Scarcely visible on the right cheek is a small scar – a reminder of the traumatic moment when our family's border collie bitch, Jo (named after Stalin), defended a ham-bone from the attentions of the 20-month-old author. My mother, after she had seen to the dog (who was understandably distressed by the experience), took me to hospital where I was stitched up and sent home.

Despite this early incident I bear dogs no ill-will. Nor have I become a child-biter myself. But I do sometimes wonder what I would have looked like if Jo, instead of being a rather puny mongrel, had been a pit-bull terrier – like the one released from police custody this week. How much face would I have had left to see me through life'sbourne?

The fact is that all dogs bite. And dogs with the strength of steam-hammers in their jaws bite badly. Best (you would have thought) not to have them around. Then children and adults won't suffer so much.

Such logic is, for some reason, beyond the dog-lobby. Sure, Dianne Forderol (or whatever her name is), owner of the reviled Dempsey Devil-Dog has undoubtedly been badly treated by the courts. Dempsey was nabbed after a relative took her muzzle off to allow her to be sick on the pavement – the way dog-owners do. Dempsey did not deserve to die for that. Better wait until she actually kills someone.

But Ms Forderol does not accept that such a thing is possible. "Dempsey would never hurt anyone," she insists. Like smokers who deny the harm their habit does them ("my Uncle Bert smoked a thousand fags a day and lived till he was 103"), dog owners will not



believe what dogs can do, until they come home one day to find their toddler's teeth and two romper-suit poppers on the doormat.

This may be the blindness of love. Writing yesterday in this paper Carla Lane (who has written more fine comedies than Dempsey has had hot children) spoke of the "grief-stricken owners" of condemned dogs. And Irene Saunders, the grateful mistress of Louise the shih tzu (an appropriate name for a breed of dog) rescued from the hold of a transatlantic jet this week, said that having lost her husband and parents Louise meant "everything" to her. And she is clearly telling the truth.

Is this true, however, for all dog-lovers? I ask for the obvious reason that many of the nation's dogless are fed up with wading knee-high through excrement and are beginning to go all Jack Straw about it. Forget winos, how dare it come about that demure grannies and Kiddemister Colonels will stand by quite happily and allow their animals to crap just outside their people's front gates? Do we endure this in deference to their great love?

To answer this it is time for another of the Aaronovitch tests, designed to establish the truth of conventional propositions. All dog-owners should be asked the following question: are you prepared – in perpetuity – to follow behind your dog picking up all its faeces and mopping up all its urine? Or shall I shoot the animal right now in front of you? I am prepared to bet all my meagre earnings from this newspaper that the vast majority of "dog-lovers" faced with this choice would opt for death. (I am not an unreasonable man, so the elderly and infirm would be given the choice of having their dogs fitted with colostomy bags). If dog-owners disagree with me, they know how to prove it.

Otherwise, as the Yuletide season draws on, and children stop to look in petshop windows, we should ponder the words of a Korean friend of mine. "A dog is not just for Christmas," he said, "it can taste good at any time of the year."

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

I've been lucky all my life. Talk about jammy. But I've got this feeling that the best is yet to come – Paul McCartney.

I don't like it. It is total dross. Every note reeks of wanting to make money – Jonathan King, radio presenter on the Beatles.

There was no love. All you wanted was a cuddle and to be told you had done something good, even if it was only winning a spoon race – Gary Glitter, rock star on his years in a children's home.

Stressed-out workers are no good to their families and to British business – John Monks, TUC general secretary.

I was asked in Japan recently not to predict the end of – they were nervous it might affect the stock market.

Hawking, physicist, lecturing at the Royal Albert Hall.

This may not be a just peace ... but in the world as it is, peace could not have been attained – Aliza Kneebegor of Bosnia.

The longer she stays in Kensington Palace, the longer she hurts herself – Andrew Morton, biographer of the Prince.

I do not expect any more comments – John Major, after Soames, armed forces minister, claimed the Princess was

to make new record.

he told you the egg and hen's home.

no good any, attacking a legal right.

of the world – Stephen.

is a better president.

she goes on ess of Wales.

or Nicholas.

paranoid.

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23 November

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PROFILE: Gerry Robinson

# Happily eating into Forte

Granada's boss isn't the type to bag pheasants: he has bigger game in his sights, says Mathew Horsman

Next to Granada headquarters in Golden Square, central London, stands the mighty Regent Palace Hotel, one of 900 properties worldwide run by Britain's largest hotel operator, Forte. A small sign on one of the side entrances reads: "Forte recruitment next door."

Certainly Sir Rocco Forte, the international hotelier, does not intend to recruit the help of anyone next door at Granada. But he may have no choice. For he finds himself on the receiving end of what promises to be a very hostile takeover bid from the rentals, television and catering giant.

It is hard to see the affable Gerry Robinson, 47, being in the least bit hostile. Granada's chief executive is quick to laugh – real belly laughs, the kind you cannot help but join in – but he is mischievous, even devious, too. When told last week that Sir Rocco had been on a pheasant shoot in Yorkshire at the time Granada's £3.3bn bid was being unveiled in London, he responded: "I get invited on shoots all the time. I just can't stand the idea of doing it."

The comment is nicely judged. He has said nothing against his adversary, but has managed all the same to draw a distinct line between them. Sir Rocco is the kind of man who isn't on the spot when his company's fortunes are at risk. Moreover, he is on a "shoot", that quintessential pastime of the idle rich (even if, like Irish-born Robinson, Sir Rocco comes from less-than-aristocratic origins); meanwhile, Robinson is in the City, taking questions from institutional investors, journalists and financial analysts.

Even in his landslide attack on Forte's poor performance of late, Robinson's Granada has put its criticisms carefully. The assets – ranging from "trophy" hotels such as Grosvenor House and the luxury George V in Paris to roadside restaurants such as the Happy Eater chain – have been "under-managed", and shareholders have

not received the kind of value they deserve.

Compare that light touch with Sir Rocco's response to the bid: "He [Robinson] has no skills to run a hotels business. The closest he gets to marketing is his big mouth."

Later, in a conversation in the corner office of Granada headquarters, Robinson warms to the "us and them" theme without drawing undue attention. Describing the three years of work that he and his second-in-command Charles Allen put into charting the prospects of a bid for Forte, he says: "I have been in a lot of Happy Eaters and in a lot of Forte hotels. Of course, most people would expect me to be better at judging the Posthouse in Ipswich than the George V in Paris."

"Forte is viewed as being a high-class hotel company," Robinson says smoothly. "It isn't. It makes most of its money from mid-market hotels and motorside restaurants. So it makes a lot of sense for Granada to be interested."

Translation: Sir Rocco has pretensions to being an international, high-class hotelier; Robinson none. A self-made man of the people, then, and proud of it. Ninth in a fam-

ily of 10 children, born in Donegal, Ireland, Robinson studied for the priesthood, then worked at a Matchbox toy factory, rising to plant manager at 22. After stints at Lesney Products, Lex and Coca-Cola (together with studies in accountancy), he joined GrandMet, the food and drinks giant, and led a management buy-out of the catering division in 1987. The resulting company, Compass, was a huge success, and earned him a personal fortune rumoured to be at least £5m.

whole layers of management were removed: even senior staff at Granada Television, the jewel of the ITV crown, got the boot. So unpopular was the restructuring that the comedian John Cleese famously wrote to Robinson, saying, "F\*\*\* off out of it, you ignorant upstart caterer."

Since then the two men have made their peace and Granada has prospered. By the time it took over LWT in another acrimonious battle that this time pitted Robin-



Unlike Rocco Forte, Gerry Robinson is no workaholic. "Most work is pointless" Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

In 1991, Granada, a tired, family-run rentals and television company, enticed him to join with a mandate to improve flagging profits and overcome a disastrous expansion of the computer maintenance business under his predecessor, Derek Lewis. Robinson did so the old-fashioned, and unpopular, way: cutting costs. Jobs went,

complete the strategy. But woe to the under-performer, the line manager who misses his target.

"People love to make their businesses appear complicated," he says. "Most are not. Hotels are about three things: managing pricing, managing costs and managing capacity."

Likewise: "Television is about programming. If you have good programmes, you will succeed." He and chief operating officer Allen are about to put that to a further test, rolling out as many as four new satellite channels by next year, fed in part by gems from the Granada library.

Robinson finds he can get his work done easily between 9am and 6pm. Weekend work is out of the question. "I think most work is pointless," he says. "There are only three or four things you do a day that have any effect on your business. The rest is a waste of time."

While Robinson won't say it, the implication is clear. The notorious workaholic Sir Rocco, who works through dinner and on weekends, heads a company that has posted disappointing results in recent years. Robinson is chief executive of a growing, profitable operation, effortlessly providing shareholders with good value. Odds are, he'll win.

People love to make their businesses appear complicated. Most are not

## Running on the road to nowhere

Should doctors prescribe exercise? Jim White, a bored gym-goer, thinks not

This morning began as most mornings do. After scraping the evening's accumulation of mould from the perma-dampness of my training shoes, slipping on a T-shirt effused with the fine odour of yesterday's armpit, squeezing into a pair of 1985 vintage Manchester United away shorts – I started up the running machine in the office gym and began to creak. I then ran, on the spot, as the treadmill beneath my feet spun slowly away.

Seventeen minutes later, when I stopped the machine, four things had happened. A thick and unattractive medal of sweat had colonised my T-shirt; four tracks of Oasis's *(What's the Story) Morning Glory* had played on the gym's CD machine; nine Docklands Light Railway trains had stuttered out of Canary Wharf station; and, through the pain and nausea, I had a recurring vision of a caged hamster running, pointlessly, in its wheel.

This is what we have come to in the convenience age. Nothing requires any physical effort any more: television channels can be altered from the prone position; lawn mowers don't need to be rope-cranked; with a deluxe smooth-glide corkscrew there isn't even a struggle opening a bottle of claret. Thanks to this easy life we are developing into a nation of ladies and wheelers, who can't climb the stairs unless attached to a canister of oxygen. What we are facing is nothing less than the gradual Americanisation of our hips. And the only way to fight the descent to the inevitable moment when you lose all visual connection with your toes is to work at it. We must all start behaving, in short, like caged rodents.

This was certainly the view propounded this week by Murdo Wallace, the chairman and founder of the Wright Foundation. At about the time I quit the machine of pain, Mr Wallace was launching a scheme that sought to empty the nation's doctor's waiting-rooms and fill the nation's gyms. His view was that if we were all encouraged on to the treadmill by doctors, the benefits would be immense: less sickness, less stress, less drug dependency, greater self-esteem, acres of cellulite wiped from the human landscape at a stroke. Free gym membership

on the NHS, he called for; expensive in the short term, but cost-effective in the long. And since most doctors appear to be set on smoking, drinking and stressing themselves into casualty, it might not be a bad idea if the first gym prescriptions they scribbled were their own. There is indeed much to suggest that gyms work better at preventing illness than doctors' surgeries. For a start, unlike any doctor's waiting-room I have visited, gyms tend to be full of fit, healthy people (though the *Independent's* staff facility may be an exception). Also, if you have a heart attack in a gym, you are likely to be attended to by staff immediately, whereas keel over at your local NHS facility and you'd have to wait an hour before service is market prioritised. And – though again this depends on the gym you frequent – gym staff rarely offer drugs as a first resort.

But there is one significant problem in this idea of Wallace's: the nature of gym exercise itself. Any visitor from another planet happening upon the Canary Wharf fitness centre would see the co-ordinates for home straight away. Everywhere you look, all you see is madness: people rowing nowhere, people climbing stairs to nowhere, people squatting with a large weight between their thighs and lifting it rhythmically to an M People track while indicating extreme pain; in short, as sharp a metaphor for the pointlessness of human existence as you can find.

At the end of every running-on-the-spot session, wasting hours that could be more profitably employed, say, twiddling my thumbs, the thing that invariably springs to my mind is that old Frank Sinatra tale. Told by his doctor that if he stopped drinking, smoking and chasing women he would live longer, Sinatra replied that, no, it would only feel like he lived longer.

Perhaps, now that Mr Wallace has made the first move in a closer liaison between the medical and the exercise establishments, what is required is further co-operation: the use of selective anaesthetic to dull the pain. Knock you out before you start, wake you up when you've finished – with an offer like that, the country's gyms would be fuller than a body-builder's G-string.

## Time for a little daylight – and sanity

There is a good chance that dark winter afternoons – and GMT – will vanish. Peter Popham can't wait

Thanks to the luck of the parliamentary draw, an overwhelmingly logical reform should soon be enacted which, at no cost to anyone, will improve the nation's health, cut crime and deaths on the road, and increase tourism and exports.

John Butterfill, Conservative MP for Bournemouth West, wants to kill off Greenwich Mean Time, putting our clocks forward one hour in winter and an extra hour in summer. His Bill to bring this about came top of the annual ballot of private members' bills on Thursday. Mr Butterfill claims the support of 160 MPs of all parties: if the Government does not block the Bill, our clocks could change for good by the end of 1997.

If it comes to pass, this will mean dark breakfasts and gloomy journeys to school or work in winter: at the end of December it will be dark in London until about 9am, in Glasgow until 9.45 and in Inverness until nearly 10am. But in exchange, we will get our afternoons back: at the same season, London will be light until nearly 5pm, Glasgow until 4.45, even Inverness until 4.30. And as the days begin to lengthen into the New Year, winter-time activities inconceivable during the afternoon for most of this century – tennis without floodlights, gardening, daylight dog-walking – will once again become possible.

The reform still has its stubborn opponents. Scottish MPs of all stripes are leery of it, because it will cast much of Scotland into gloom for half the morning. Farm workers will get frost-bite, building workers will struggle with iced-up materials, postmen will have the working hours of a bat. Most emotively of all, they say, children will be struck down by cars as they pick their way to school through the pitch black. "John Butterfill is a would-be time bandit," Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, said yesterday, "threatening Scotland with daylight robbery."

But ranged against the Scottish



Scottish question: will the threat of gloom in the Highlands kill the latest bid to bury GMT? Colin McPherson

MPs is an increasingly broad spectrum of opinion throughout the country who see the reform as long overdue. More and more people are buying into the arguments of Dr Mayer Hillman, of the Policy Studies Institute, whose report on the subject got the ball rolling in the mid-1980s.

The key objection to the reform, he acknowledges, is the fear of children being hit by cars on the way to school: it was the increase in the number of these accidents that scuppered a similar reform when it was introduced experimentally in the late Sixties. Such fears are more than outweighed, however, by the decrease in such deaths and injuries at other times of the day. "What people overlooked," says Dr Hillman, "is that children make far more journeys other than to and from school. More than 80 per cent of traffic accidents in which children are

killed or seriously injured occur when they are not going to or from school." They happen, in other words, after school – and would be far less likely to happen if afternoons were lighter.

At present, Dr Hillman argues, children and old people are effectively subject to a winter curfew, while the rest of us lose hours every day that could be spent on healthy outdoor pursuits. Putting the clocks forward an hour in winter and an extra hour in summer, he calculates, would give us 12 per cent extra time for what he calls "daylight-dependent activities" at weekends, and 35 per cent extra on weekdays.

To appreciate how we arrived in our present unenlightened state, a brief history of British time is in order. Greenwich Mean Time only prevailed with the establishment of the railway network. Up until then, every town in

England had its local time, computed from the moment the sun was due south at noon. Between London and Plymouth, for example, there was a time difference of 16 minutes. With the creation of railways and railway timetables, time throughout the country was homogenised as GMT.

But the disadvantages of GMT were soon recognised. It is instructive to discover that on the two occasions this century when efficient use of time became a national priority – in the world wars – GMT was modified. Summer time was introduced during the First World War. In the last war a fiendishly complicated system was adopted whereby the clocks were put forward twice – in February and May – and then back twice – in August and November – to make optimum use of the available daylight.

In 1963, "British Standard Time"

was introduced for an experimental three-year period, whereby time – GMT plus one hour – was fixed throughout the year. But parliamentary excitement caused by children's deaths and injuries in the mornings persuaded the government to revert to GMT in 1971 – despite the fact that overall there had been a reduction in accidents involving children. As Dr Hillman points out, it is easier to make political capital out of children who have died than out of children who haven't.

The last serious attempt to put the clocks forward, in 1989, was scuppered when Margaret Thatcher banned all controversial new legislation in the wake of the poll tax fiasco. This time round, despite public diffidence from both front benches, it should stand a better chance of success. Public opinion has increasingly swung the reformers' way: even Scottish opinion is divided evenly and the National Farmers' Union is now neutral. Besides Scottish MPs, only the building industry remains doggedly opposed. The suggestion that it go the way of Scandinavia and start the working day an hour later has gone down like a frozen breeze block.

What should our new time be called? The Home Office has dubbed it Single Double Summer Time, though a less resonant (or comprehensible) rallying cry is hard to conceive. The obvious alternative is Central European Time – though John Butterfill is quick to reassure waverers that "if they don't want to be associated with Central European Time, they can call it anything else they like."

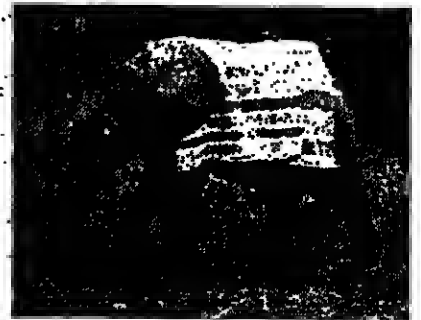
One of the principal benefits of the reform will be to bring us into line with the rest of Western Europe all year round. But nobody seems in a hurry to point this out: the wrath of the Euro-sceptics is easily roused. And it would be tragic if this same reform were to be aborted again – for another bad reason.

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If you would like further information about Care for the Wild please tick here ☐

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# obituaries / gazette

## Junior Walker

The saxophone doesn't feature enough in popular music. Too often, it has become synonymous with the bland doodlings of Kenny G or been buried in a horn section used to punctuate chord changes. Junior Walker, the American tenor sax player, was one of the prime exponents of the instrument in all its rasping glory. His playing on Motown classics like "Shotgun" (T.M.A. Roadrunner) and "What Does It Take (To Win Your Love)" as well as Forrester's "Urgent" straddled genres and decades and can still be heard on Gold stations the world over. At various times, he worked with partners whose musical roots went all the way back to the birth of rock 'n' roll itself.

Born Autry DeWalt II in 1942 in Blytheville, Arkansas, the saxophonist was nicknamed Junior by his stepfather, whose name was Walker. When he turned professional in 1962, he took up the stage name of Junior Walker while still signing his compositions with the DeWalt moniker.

Walker's honking, hard-driving style was heavily influenced by Earl Bostic, a Lionel Hampton sideman and one of the early exponents of the R&B and jazz crossover genre. In the late Fifties, Walker met up with the guitarist Willie Wood in the South Bend area of Indiana and formed the band Jumping Jacks. In 1961, an over-enthusiastic fan jumped on stage in Battle Creek, Michigan, and shouted "These guys are all stars." The name stuck and Walker's band (also including Vic Thomas on keyboards and James Graves on drums as well as Woods) became the All Stars.

The arranger, writer and producer Johnny Bristol (later to have a disco hit in 1974 with "Hang On In There Baby")

heard the group in a club and brought it to the attention of his then partner Harvey Fuqua. The former Moonglows singer (he wrote the doo-wop classic "Sincerely" with Alan Freed, the DJ who invented the expression "rock 'n' roll") had formed the Harvey and Tri-Phi labels and moved to Detroit to promote the career of Marvin Gaye. Junior Walker and the All Stars followed him there and three singles (including the rousing "Brainwasher" and the catchy "Twistackawanna") later, when Berry Gordy took over his future brother-in-law's ailing labels, they were transferred to the Soul imprint and became part of the Motown family.

Detroit was the place to be for black musicians in the mid-Sixties and Junior Walker was keen to join label-mates like the Temptations, the Four Tops and the Supremes in the charts. In 1963, while playing a gig in Benoit Harbor, Michigan, he spotted two teenagers doing an unusual dance they called the Shotgun. Walker went back to his motel room, penned an infectious tune he simply called "Shotgun" and recorded it as soon as he was back in Detroit. The track got the thumbs-up at one of Berry Gordy's legendary playback meetings, came out in March and shot up the R&B charts, crossing over to *Billboard*'s Hot 100 where it eventually reached no. 4, selling over a million copies.

Never one to give up on a successful trend, Junior came up with an impressive series of follow-up singles including "Do the Boomerang", "Shake and Fingerpop", the jazzier "Cleo's Back" and "Cleo's Mood". After charting in 1966 with an irresistible cover of Bo Diddley's "I'm A Roadrunner" (a British hit three years later) Walker changed tack slightly,

Under the guidance of Johnny Bristol, he adapted recent Motown hits and brought them back to the charts in his own inimitable and mostly instrumental style: a revival of Marvin Gaye's "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)" was followed by versions of Barrett Strong's "Money (That's What I Want)" and the Supremes' "Come See About Me". Junior Walker and the All Stars were soon becoming Motown's answer to Stax's Booker T & the MGs.

All that was to change in 1969 with the release of the distinctive "What Does It Take (To Win Your Love)", which combined a bravura performance from Walker on vocals and saxophone. Another million-seller and voted Top US Soul Record of 1969, this song featured an extended intro and solo which were to influence the work of the jazzman David Sanborn, Bruce Springsteen's sideman Clarence Clemons and the Rolling Stones guest saxophonist Bobby Keys throughout the rest of the Seventies.

It was no doubt with this performance in mind that the British producer Robert "Mutt" Lange (Boyz n the Rat, the Cars, Def Leppard) called upon the services of Walker when producing Foreigner's *J* in 1981. Walker's compelling playing propelled the band's "Urgent" to no. 4 and helped the album become a best-seller. It also introduced the saxophonist to a whole generation of AOR (adult-orientated-rock) fans. The Seventies had seen Walker's style mellow somewhat on British hits like "Walk in the Night", "Take Me Girl I'm Ready" and "Way Back Home". He would even play around with Neil Diamond's "Holly Holy" and Wings' "My Love".



Walker: Motown sax

Photograph: David Corio / SIN

Walker, who had become something of a senior figure on the soul and the cabaret circuit, left Motown in 1978 but returned briefly to the fold five years later for *Blow the House Down*, an album which included his own take on Foreigner's "Urgent". He was still gigging in the Nineties with a line-up of the All Stars which included his son, Autry DeWalt III, on drums. Walker had even taken part in a Motown revival package tour with the Four Tops and

the Temptations. Jimmy Vivino, who recently opened for Junior Walker at Bottom Line in New York, summed it all up when he declared, "There isn't a sax player out there who didn't get something from him."

Pierre Perrone

**Autry DeWalt (Junior Walker),** saxophonist, singer, bandleader: born Blytheville, Arkansas 1942; married (11 children); died Battle Creek, Michigan 23 November 1995.

**Lord O'Brien of Lothbury,** Governor of the Bank of England 1966-73, died 24 November, aged 87; Louis Malle, film director, died 23 November, aged 63. [Obituaries follow.]

## David Dilwyn John

David Dilwyn John was at various times Scientific Officer-in-Charge of a deep sea research vessel in Antarctic waters, taxonomist and curator at one of the world's largest research institutes, the Natural History Museum, a major in the Royal Artillery and the director of one of the most varied national museums in Britain, the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

Born in the Vale of Glamorgan, one of the four children of a tenant farmer, he was educated at Bridgend and at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. He graduated in Agriculture, took First Class honours in Zoology and did one year's research in Parasitology, gaining an MSc in 1925.

His scientific training first led him to the government-sponsored Discovery Investigations, carrying out oceanographic work of economic importance in southern waters. He spent three commissions at sea, learning his trade during the first and acting as Scientific Officer-in-Charge during the other two. During the third, remarkable voyage, on *RRS Discovery II* in 1931-33, the complete circumnavigation of the Antarctic continent was attempted for the first time and successfully accomplished. The scientists worked on the biology of the whale; Dilwyn John's special interest was in the krill - the shrimp-like crustacean eat-



Dilwyn John: Welsh museums

on by whales. He was awarded a Polar Medal in 1941.

The next stage in his scientific career was in a very different environment: he spent four years before the Second World War and three after as a systematist and taxonomist at the Natural History Museum in London, studying starfish, sea-urchins, sea-lilies and sea-cucumbers and responsible for the important collections of these organisms. This work provided the basis for articles in academic and popular journals, in the *New Chambers Encyclopedia* and for a DSc at the University of Wales.

Having joined the Territorial Army in 1936, he served as a regimental officer in Anti-Aircraft Command throughout the war. He was promoted Major in 1942 and awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1949.

The change from being a Deputy Keeper at South Kensington to that of Director of the National Museum of Wales in 1948 was, in his own words, "an enormous contrast". He arrived in Cardiff at a time when two major schemes became operational. They involved the creation of an open-air extension dealing with the traditional aspects of Welsh life, on a site at St Fagans just outside the city boundaries; and a museum service to all the secondary schools in Wales, organised in collaboration with the Local Education Authorities and their coordinating committee. Both were pioneering ventures in a British as well as a Welsh context.

These and other new developments, including important building projects, flourished under Dilwyn John. During his period of office, much greater use was made of the Welsh language, particularly at St Fagans, where the majority of the staff were Welsh-speakers first and foremost.

The wide-ranging nature of his duties inevitably led to involvement with a number of national and regional bodies - covering educational, cultural, scientific and conservation fields. His contributions - internal and external - were recognised by his appointment as CBE in 1961, the Presidency of the Museums Association from 1962 to 1963 and the award of an honorary LID by

the University of Wales a year after his retirement in 1968. During the next 10 years or so he was closely associated with the work of the University College, Cardiff, and became an Honorary Fellow in 1982.

Dilwyn John had a gentle and rather retiring disposition, a quiet and somewhat scholarly manner with a fine literary and artistic sense. He was a thoughtful, modest man who also had a particularly strong and determined personality which occasionally showed signs of inflexibility. Two consistent threads throughout his life were his very great interest in English literature, complemented by his constant concern for precision and exactness in the use of words and for elegance and style in expression. These interests were clearly reflected in his published work in scientific journals and his prolific correspondence as well as in his public pronouncements and his everyday speech.

Douglas A. Bassett

**David Dilwyn John, museum director:** born St Bride's Major 20 November 1901; zoologist, *Discovery Investigations* 1925-35; Assistant Keeper in charge of Echinoderms, *Natural History Museum* 1935-48; Deputy Keeper 1948; Director, *National Museum of Wales, Cardiff* 1948-68; CBE 1961; married 1929 Marjorie Page (one son, one daughter); died 2 October 1995.

## Professor A. D. Trendall



Trendall: red-figure vases

A. D. Trendall was one of the great classical art historians of this century.

He devoted virtually all his academic career to the study of figure-decorated South Italian vases of the 5th to 4th centuries BC. There are at least 20,500 of them, and to modern eyes they range from the garishly complex and kitsch to the banal, from exquisite draughtsmanship to what he fondly called "little horrors". But they are susceptible to close analysis in terms of painter hands, which makes possible the creation of the history of a prolific craft in the main colonial Greek centres, in Campania, Sicily, and especially Lucania and Apulia. Moreover their decoration includes a host of figure scenes of mythological events in which many scholars have seen close reflections of subjects of the contemporary theatre, of Athens especially, but which also record much that has escaped surviving texts.

Through Trendall's work this great corpus was effectively put in order, painters and workshops identified, dates assigned, and a basis laid for continuing studies on the various other aspects of antiquity illuminated by such evidence, which he also pursued with enthusiasm.

His technique of attribution was one already perfected by J.D. (Sir John) Beazley, working on the even more numerous Athenian vases of the 6th to 4th centuries BC. Beazley had more than turned his eyes to the South Italian, but it was left to Trendall to complete the task which called for skills of perception and visual memory commanded by very few archaeologists of any generation.

Both Beazley's and Trendall's work demanded a lifetime of dedication, decidedly one-man projects that could never have been effected by a team or even machines. The result was a series of massive books with lists, but also, unlike Beazley's, with close explanations of the criteria for identification, and rich illustration. And the books were followed by a long series of Supplements, since this is a subject for which new materi-

al, from excavations (legal and otherwise), was constantly forthcoming.

Arthur Dale Trendall was born in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1909, and educated at Cambridge, where he was a Fellow of Trinity from 1936 to 1940, but returned south to the Chair in Greek at Sydney University, which he held until 1954; and thence to Canberra as Master of University House in the Australian National University to 1969, and as its Deputy Vice-Chancellor for six years. His last years were spent as Resident Fellow at La Trobe University in Melbourne.

He had a profound effect on the development of Classical studies in Australia. In his universities he was an able administrator and man of affairs; the other side to a life of dedicated and disciplined scholarship, acknowledged by Fellowship of many Academies world-wide, medals, honorary doctorates, and award of Companionship of the Order of Australia and the CMG.

Such dedication and scholarship, however worthy, may sound dry and soul-destroying. Dale Trendall carried it all with modesty and considerable wit. His company and conversation shimmered with his delight in his work and in the world around him. He knew (as academics have to) the cheapest hotel most convenient for work in the Louvre and Bibliothèque Nationale. His knowledge of the contents of the cellars of many a museum in Italy probably rivalled that of their curators.

When Trendall was not working through mountains of proofs he revealed himself as a man of deep culture, observer of life and raconteur. His almost impish delight in work and people, and his readiness to sacrifice even comfort to scholarship, endeared him to everyone, not least to students who always found him a ready listener.

He belonged to a generation of scholars now almost extinct, who valued the truth above show. His standards were old-fashioned - he always answered letters, courteously and at length. Time and again he

would say he was getting tired and that the next re-edition or Supplement would be the last, but still they came, until failing sight and health put an end to a career and an achievement which can never be outdated, nor need to be reworked.

John Boardman

**Arthur Dale Trendall, classical art historian:** born Auckland, New Zealand 28 March 1909; Fellow, Trinity College Cambridge 1936-40; Librarian, British School at Rome 1936-38; FSA 1939; Professor of Greek, University of Sydney 1939-54 (Emeritus), Dean of Faculty of Arts 1947-50, Chairman, Professional Board 1949-50, 1952, Acting Vice-Chancellor 1953; Master of University House, ANU 1954-69, Deputy Vice-Chancellor 1958-64, Honorary Fellow 1969; CMG 1961; Geddes-Harrower Professor of Greek Art and Archaeology, Aberdeen University 1966-67; Chairman, Australian Humanities Research Council 1957-59; Resident Fellow, Menzies College, La Trobe University 1969-95; AC 1976; books include *Paestan Pottery* 1936 (Supplement 1952, Addenda 1960), *The Red-figured Vases of Lucania, Campania and Sicily* 1967 (Supplements 1970, 11 1973, 11 1983), *Illustrations of Greek Drama* (with T.B.L. Webster) 1971, *The Red-figured Vases of Apulia* 1978-82 (with A. Cambioglou), *Supplements* 1983, 11 1991-92), *The Red-figured Vases of Paestan* 1987, *Greek Red-figured Fish-plates* 1987; died Melbourne, Australia 13 November 1995.

## Max Lejeune

"I do not know you but I need you." These words were spoken by de Gaulle to Max Lejeune on 4 June 1958. They meant that the socialist deputy Lejeune, who had served in no less than 10 governments of the Fourth Republic, was to be a minister in the first government of the new regime. Because the army had confidence in Lejeune, de Gaulle considered making him Minister for Algerian Affairs, but was dissuaded. Lejeune became Minister for the Sahara, a post he had already held.

De Gaulle was not dissuaded in his intention to take Lejeune and another minister, Louis Jacquinot, with him on his journey to Algiers on 6 June. Every one warned him that ministers of the Fourth Republic, which had allegedly been prepared to abandon Algeria, would be badly received, even when some of the most fervent Algerian-Française supporters stated that Max Lejeune, at least, was "irreproachable".

The trouble started at Algiers airport. De Gaulle was received by the military leaders and was whisked away to the residence of the Gouvernement Général, but Lejeune and his minister-

al colleague found that no car had been provided for them. They were about to be abandoned, but they literally fought their way into the remaining official cars. On arriving at the residence they were locked in a small room, and they stayed there whilst de Gaulle was making his speech. Several of the traitor settlers tried to get to them, but eventually an astute general was able to free them and take them to safety.

This was not the first disagreeable experience that Lejeune had suffered in Algiers. On 6 February 1956, as Secretary of



Lejeune: doyen parliamentarian

State for War, he accompanied his newly elected Prime Minister, Guy Mollet, to Algiers. This journey was intended to be a gesture that would inaugurate an attempt to end the war in Algeria. But Mollet and Lejeune were forced to abandon their attempts to lay wreaths at the war memorial, as quantities of tomatoes and other missiles rained down upon them. The visit was abandoned.

Lejeune's attitude towards Algeria was emphatically socialist. He believed that France should carry out a social and educational policy which would transform Algerian society. Once the effects of this policy were seen, then Algerians would wish to remain French. The Socialist Republic could make the bonds between France and Algeria unbreakable.

This view was not shared by all his fellow socialists. Nor were Lejeune's actions always welcomed. In October 1956 he approved of the kidnapping of Ben Bella and other nationalist leaders when their plane, travelling between Rabat and Tunis, was diverted to Algiers. In August 1954 he voted against

the European Defence Community Treaty and was, for a time, expelled from the Socialist Party. He was always on the Right of the party and moderately nationalist. He was fully involved in the Suez operation of 1956.

Max Lejeune was the doyen of French parliamentarians. Elected Deputy for Abbeville in 1936, he held this position until 1977, with the exception of the Second World War years when he was in the Resistance. Then from 1977 until his death he was Senator for the Somme. He was elected mayor of Abbeville in 1947 and held that position for 40 years. He was a close friend of Guy Mollet - the mayor of Abbeville saw eye to eye with the mayor of Arras, and the one-time geography teacher from Abbeville was always in favour of the one-time English teacher from Arras. Max Lejeune was a stalwart of the Socialist party in its pre-Mitterrand days.

Douglas Johnson

**Max Lejeune, politician:** born Flesselles 19 February 1909; married (one son, one daughter); died 22 November 1995.

## Births, Marriages & Deaths

### IN MEMORIAM

**MAXEY:** Alex, died 25 November 1991, aged 37. Loved and remembered always, Sarah.

**MAXEY:** Alex, 13 February 1954 to 25 November 1991. ... But glad to have sat under Thunder and rain with you. And grateful too for sunlight on the garden. MacNeice. Miss you always, Kate.

**Announcements for Deaths:** BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Marriages, Deaths, Memorials, Weddings, Anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine) 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

### Lectures

**TODAY**  
Victoria and Albert Museum: Andrew Bolton, "Chinese Religious Art: temple and worship", 2.30pm.  
Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "British Artists Abroad", 1pm.  
National Portrait Gallery: Frances Holman, "Enchantments: Late Victorian Paintings of the Prince of Wales 1873-1896", 3pm.  
**TOMORROW**  
Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Refined Art: Cucumber and Tea", 2.30pm.  
National Portrait Gallery: Wendy NeRón-Cave, "Richard and Maria Gwynne: Regency artists of taste and fashion", 3pm.

### Birthdays

**TODAY:** Mr Bev Bevan, rock musician, 49; Mr Paul Copley, actor, 52; Mrs Kathryn Cradley, actress, 62; Sir John Drummond, writer and broadcaster, 81; Mr Francis Durbridge, author and playwright, 83; Mr John Edwards, former High Commissioner to Botswana, 61; Mrs Maria Fyfe MR 57; Sir Cosmo Haskard, former governor of the Falkland Islands, 79; Miss Daisy Hyams, consultant, 79; Mr 83; Mr Dickie Jones, former rugby international, 64; Mr Alan Keen MR 58; Mr Charles Kennedy MR 36; Miss Wynne Kennedy, operatic soprano, 45; Mr Imran Khan, cricketer, 43; Dr Mauro Kovacic, former president of Finland, 72; Dr Elizabeth Laverick, electrical engineer, 70; Sir Robert McConnell, former Social Security Commissioner, Northern Ireland, 73; Mr Tony Milson, ambassador to Macedonia, 44; Mr Ricardo Montalban, actor, 75; Sir Fergus Montgomery MR 68; Mr Michael Morris MR 59; Mr Paul Murphy MR 47; Mr Tony Neary, rugby player, 47; Mr Kerry O'Keefe, cricketer, 46; Lord Richardson of Dunblaine, chairman, Morgan Stanley International Inc, 80; Mr Richard Scitell, architect, 85; Mr Laurence Shurman, Banking ombudsman, 65; Lord Weatherill, former Speaker of the House of Commons, 73; Sir Peter Wright, former Director, Birmingham Royal Ballet, 69.

**TOMORROW:** Maj-Gen Sir John Acland, farmer and brewery director, 67; Professor Margaret Boden, philosopher, 59; Mr Paul Burnett, director, 52; Sir Alan Dalton, former chairman, Devon and Cornwall Development Company, 72; Miss Frances Dee, actress, 88; Lord Forte, 87; Sir Brian Goswell, deputy senior partner, Healey and Baker, 60; Mr Robert Goulet, singer and actor, 62; The Earl of Gowrie, chairman, Arts Council

of England, 56; Mr John Selwyn Gummer MR, Secretary of State for the Environment, 56; Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, former Master, St John's, Cambridge, 77; The Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh and Primate of the Scottish Episcopal Church, 62; John McVie, rock musician, 50; Lord Moore of Lower Marsh, former MP, 58; Miss Joyce Quin MR 51; Mr Charles Schultz, cartoonist, creator of "Peanuts", 73; Lord Strathmore and Mount Royal, president, Falkland Islands Trust, 72; Mrs Barbara Switzer, assistant general secretary, Manufacturing Services Finance, 55; Miss Tina Turner, rock singer, 57; Mr Keith Vaz MR 39; Mr Des Walker, footballer, 30; Mr Norman West, MEP, 60; Mr Peter Wheeler, rugby player, 47.

### Anniversaries

**TODAY:** Births: Charles Kemble, actor and playwright, 1775; Andrew Carnegie, industrialist and philanthropist, 1835; Carl Friedrich Benz, automobile pioneer, 1844; Leonard Sidney Woolf, publisher, 1880. Deaths: King Herod the Great, 4 BC; Prince William, son of Henry I, lost at sea in the *White Ship* (1120); Edward Almy, actor and founder of Dulwich College, 1639; Dame Lilian Mary Baylis, founder of the Old Vic theatre, 1937; Dame Myra Hess, pianist, 1965. On this day: the English defeated the Scots at the Battle of Solway Moss, 1542; New York was evacuated by the British, 1783; the Royalty Theatre, Soho, London, closed, 1938; the play *The Mousetrap*, by Agatha Christie, opened in London, 1952. Today is the Feast Day of St Maurice, of Caesarea and St Moses the Martyr.

**TOMORROW:** Births: The Rev Dr William De Vries, natural philosopher, 1657; William Cowper, poet, 1731; Sir Mark Aurel Stein, archae-

ologist, 1862; Dr Cyril James Cusack, actor, 1910. Deaths: Isabelle I, Queen of Castile and Aragon, 1504; John Loudon MacAdam, inventor of the tarmac road-surfacing system, 1836; Robert Burns, newspaper proprietor, 1940; Thomas Francis (Tommy) Dorsey, bandleader, trombonist and composer, 1956; Cyril Vernon Connolly, critic, 1974. On this day: New College, Oxford was founded by William of Wykeham, 1379; the Great Storm raged in England, causing 8,000 lives, 1703; the first Eddystone Lighthouse was blown down, 1703; to commemorate the harvest of 1623, the first national Thanksgiving Day was held in the United States, 1789; India became a federal republic within the Commonwealth, 1949; three tons of gold bullion worth £5m were stolen from Heathrow, 1983. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Basilios or Basil, St Conrad of Constantinople, St John Berchmans, St Leonard of Porto Maurizio, St Peter of Alexandria, St Silvester Gozzolini and St Sirdicus.

### Appointments

Mr Justice Buxton, to be a judge of the Employment Appeal Tribunal. Mr James Roger Watson and Ms Jennifer Carole Watson, to be full-time chairmen of Social Security Appeal Tribunals, Medical Appeal Tribunals, Disability Appeal Tribunals and Child Support Appeal Tribunals. Mr Julian Hugh Gordon Langley QC, to be a Justice of the High Court. Mr William George, to be a circuit judge, on the Northern Circuit.

**Changing of the Guard**  
**TODAY:** The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment moves the Queen's Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. **TOMORROW:** The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment moves the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. **Company:** Old Guard moves the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by the Grenadier Guards.

## An historic decline in papal authority

### faith & reason

The Vatican has announced that the Pope's prohibition on women priests is infallible. Margaret Hebblethwaite, a Catholic feminist, finds herself unconvinced.

This month has seen two events of megadrama for the Roman Catholic Church, both directly concerned with the question of women priests. In early November a woman, Ludmila Javorova, announced she had been secretly ordained as a Catholic priest in Communist Czechoslovakia. Last Saturday the Vatican announced that the prohibition on women priests, expressed in the Pope's letter on the subject in May, was infallible. Considering that most Catholics will think either one event or the other totally ridiculous, perhaps I should speak rather of *melodrama*.

As a Catholic feminist, what can I make of it all? What is the bottom line, I have to ask myself, of my attachment to women's priesthood? And what do I really believe about infallibility? When women are declared incapable of priesthood, I feel deep within my female identity something crying out that it is being twisted and trampled on. That may sound strange language, but if women cannot represent Christ, simply because they come from the other sex, then how can Christ represent women? And so I feel my very salvation is at stake.

On the other hand, when I think that somewhere in the world there is a real, living Catholic woman priest, saying mass every day, I find that extraordinarily comforting and reconciling. We no longer just live in hope of women's full and equal share in Christ's saving work; we are beginning already to see the promise fulfilled.

What do I really believe about infallibility? If Catholics believe in papal infallibility one might expect them to want such an exciting capability to be exercised constantly. Truth, truth and more truth. Why not? Can it be because they fear the

awful prospect that the Pope, when acting "infallibly", would make a mistake? I believe that Jesus asked his followers to carry on his work, and authorised them to act in his name. Any ambassador, any representative, acts with the authority of someone greater. It makes perfectly good sense that the Church acts in the name of Christ, and that Christ backs up the decisions made by the Church. If that is what infallibility means, I believe in it.

At the same time it makes perfect nonsense to claim for human beings attributes that can only belong to God, like "all-mighty", "all-seeing", "all-knowing", "all-loving". No human being can have the sort of infallibility that it would be blasphemous to attribute to anyone other than God.

The infallible claims made by this latest declaration are curiously slippery. There is no claim of an exercise of papal infallibility as such. Rather, the infallibility is attributed to the "ordinary, universal magisterium" - the bishops as a whole. But the allegedly infallible doctrine is the teaching "that the Church has no au-

thority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women" - the particular papal formulation of last summer. Moreover it is the Pope who has ordered the declaration of infallibility to be published.

So the Pope has told the Congregation to say that what the Pope said last summer is something that all the bishops everywhere have always taught as a dogma of faith and is therefore infallible. But supposing you don't agree that they have taught that? What they have always done, because no one until recently seriously thought of doing anything other, is very different from what they have always taught as a dogma of faith. After all, the bishop who ordained Ludmila Javorova clearly did not hold such a view.

So what then? Then of course you only have the non-infallible authority of the Congregation to say that others have taught this matter infallibly.

Even with these technical reservations, the announcement of an infallible doctrine should be a world-shattering event. Instead, the event merited no more than an "In Brief" paragraph in the *Independent* on Monday. The mood has changed since the 1968 encyclical against birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, despite its much lesser authority. Then people met in private huddles with anxious faces, worrying what the implications were for them as Catholics if they could not agree with the Pope.

If in 1995 no one pays much attention when Rome bangs its fist and says "This is infallible", then what can we conclude? We can conclude that we are witnessing what may be the biggest decline of papal authority in real terms ever seen in history. There could be no greater gift to the ecumenical movement than that.

John 1:1-5

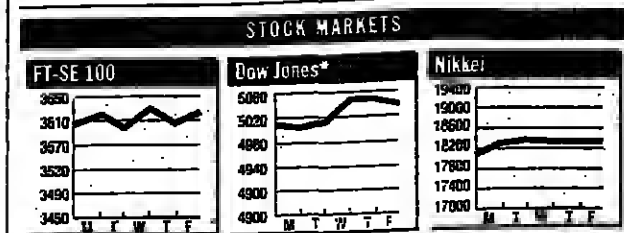


Foreign Exchange Rates											
STERLING						DOLLAR				D-MARK	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month
US	15506	12-10	30-27	1000	-	-	100	-11	45-52	17000	05559
Canada	2104	5-17	21-49	138	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
France	2204	5-17	21-49	138	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Germany	70045	45-52	100-24	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Italy	24875	65-80	200-24	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Japan	18205	85-84	100-24	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
ECU	12006	13-7	34-27	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Belgium	45488	10-10	30-27	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Denmark	18205	85-84	100-24	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Australia	24079	610-320	780-180	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
New Zealand	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Finland	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Sweden	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Spain	18205	85-84	100-24	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Portugal	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Greece	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
India	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
South Africa	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Argentina	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Chile	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Colombia	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Costa Rica	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Cuba	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Czech Republic	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Dominican Republic	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Ecuador	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
El Salvador	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Guatemala	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Honduras	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Hungary	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Iceland	10894	9-10	29-29	1000	18-19	60-60	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000



CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

MARKET SUMMARY



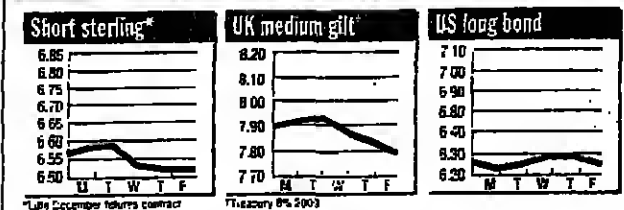
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1995 High	1995 Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3694.00	+2150	+0.6	3632.40	2954.20	3.95
FTSE 250	2942.80	+8.80	+0.3	2991.30	2300.90	3.49
FTSE 350	1975.50	+9.20	+0.5	1901.90	931.00	3.85
FT Small Cap	2849.48	+0.20	+0.0	1931.11	1678.51	3.33
FT All Share	1772.82	+8.44	+0.5	1776.97	1469.23	3.81
New York	5048.84	+7.23	+0.1	5048.84	4693.70	2.35
Tokyo	18215.23	-24.61	-0.1	18684.04	14485.41	0.82
Hong Kong	9488.75	-16.92	-0.2	10032.93	9245.5	4.08
Frankfurt	2188.36	+5.91	+0.3	2371.01	1910.96	2.05
Paris	1890.95	+23.84	+1.3	2017.27	1700.58	3.19
Milan	9018.00	-55.00	-0.6	9911.00	8912.00	1.82

\*Dow Jones: Graph at 1300 hours \*\*FT/SE World Index Fields

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

FTSE 350 companies (including investment trusts)				Falls				
Rises	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change		Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change	
Ladbroke Group	148	10	7.2		Body Shop Ind	152	8	5
Tringlair House	24	1.5	6.7		British Vita	200	9	4.5
Aecla Group	133.5	5.3	5.3		Lucas Industries	1835	6.5	3.4
Randm	370	15	4.2		Wickes	123	4	3.1
Smith/Wh	427	17	4.1		Powergen	524	16	3.0

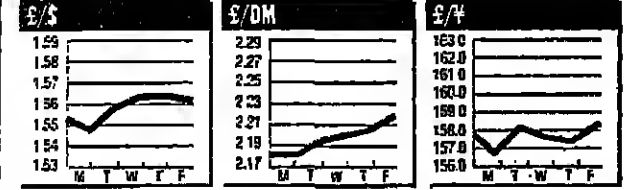
INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates			Bond Yields*			
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	(%) Year Ago
UK	6.72	6.44	7.53	8.43	7.77	8.43
US	5.81	5.60	5.92	7.80	6.25	7.95
Japan	0.47	0.56	2.66	4.65	-	-
Germany	3.94	3.81	6.25	7.31	7.02	-

\*Benchmark indices

CURRENCIES



Pound			Dollar				
	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago		Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	1.5808	-0.21c	1.5631	£ (London)	0.6407	0.08	0.6339
\$ (N York)**	1.5638	unch	1.5626	£ (N York)**	0.6395	unch	0.6339
DM (London)	2.2108	0.06p	2.4386	DM (London)	1.425	0.23p	1.5589
Yen (London)	158.13	+10.07	154.75	Yen (London)	101.345	+10.89	98.765
£ Index	83.00	-0.0	82.6	\$ Index	93.0	0.20	95.58

OTHER INDICATORS									
	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago		Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Week Ago	Month Ago
Oil Brent \$	16.94	+0.24	17.28	GBP	149.8	+3.9p	24		14 Dec
Gold \$	393.60	+1.35	394.95	GBP	106.8	21p	4.3		21 Dec
Gold £	245.77	+1.19	246.01	Brent Crude	87.50p	6.25			---

Source: FT Information

Source: FT Information

IN BRIEF

Halifax cuts investment rates

The Halifax Building Society yesterday cut its investment rates by 0.25-0.5 per cent. Such a big fall normally heralds a reduction in base rates. A spokesman for the Halifax said the move reflected the drop in interest rates in the short term money markets where the funds are invested. Financial markets expect a base rate reduction in the weeks after Tuesday's Budget. The short sterling futures market, where traders bet on future interest rate levels, yesterday signalled base rates at 6.25 per cent next June, down from the current level of 6.75 per cent.

Engineering sales ahead

Turnover in the engineering industries rose by 1.1 per cent in the three months to September. Homes sales fell a fraction but export sales jumped by 3.1 per cent. But forward orders fell 3.2 per cent during the same period. The average level of pay settlements in the three months to October was 3.43 per cent according to the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Seaboard profits up

Seaboard, subject of a £1.6bn bid from Central and South West Corporation, said pretax profits rose 17 per cent in the six months to September, to £39.4m. The company brought forward its results so that they would coincide with CSW's offer document.

£6bn spent on cards

Credit and debit card spending reached nearly £6bn in October, 19 per cent higher than a year earlier. Use of plastic increased most in food and drink, according to the Credit Card Research Group.

UBS forecasts 2% house prices rise

House prices are set to recover slightly by about 2 per cent next year after the collapse of the last 12 months, according to a new report by UBS, the Swiss banking group, yesterday. But Roh Thomas, the report's author, warned that the recovery comes it will "appear weak and faltering at first".

French economy slows

Figures on consumer purchases of manufactured goods confirmed the signs of slowdown in the French economy. The 2.3 per cent year-on-year drop and 4.4 per cent monthly declines were the biggest for nearly two years. There were no signs of weakness in the trade figures for September. The surplus was £77.9bn.

Biotrace fires chief after £1.5m loss

Biotrace International said it had terminated the contract of employment of its chief executive, Brian Levett. The company also said it is likely to make a loss for the year of about £1.5m on a turnover broadly similar to that of the previous 12 months.

North West Water

Our report yesterday which attributed to North West Water the statement that the merger with Norwich had produced savings of £70m this year and the need for £100m of provisions to cover restructuring was incorrect. North West Water has had management control of Norwich for just two weeks. The company said it would not for some time be able to produce precise forecasts of the potential savings and restructuring provisions.

Telecommunications: Bonfield steps in at the top for British giant □ New BT position for BA chairman

# Vallance's role split in radical BT shake-up

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

Sir Iain Vallance stunned the City yesterday with the announcement that he will stand down from the day-to-day running of BT, Britain's largest telecommunications company. But he will continue on his full £480,000 pay.

Another director who will leave in January will continue to be paid his annual £430,000 until his contract expires in August. BT has embarked on its most radical change in almost a decade with Sir Iain keeping the job of chairman but relinquishing the chief executive's

BT's shares climbed off a three-year low, rising 5.5p to 360.5p. They have dropped from a year's best of 41.4p in just two months.

Sir Iain said that the decision to split the top job was made a year ago and that the hunt for a chief executive started then. "I have had a good run at this since 1987, but it was always at the back of my mind that we should get back to the traditional model of separating the roles of chairman and chief executive. My own belief is that you only want those roles combined in times of major change and crisis, such as the move from the public to the private sector."

Sir Iain said that he had no intention of dropping the role of full-time chairman "at the present time", but added: "I have also made it clear I will not spend my whole career at BT". He rejected the suggestion that he should have taken a non-executive role, saying: "The non-executive chairman is a unicorn - an animal that does not really exist."

The announcement of shake-up comes within days of the dramatic ousting from rival Cable & Wireless of Lord Young of Grafton and James Ross, respectively chairman and chief executive. It also coincides with a period of deep regulatory uncertainty, with BT facing a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if it refuses to accept new competition powers sought by the industry regulator, Don Cruickshank.

Mr Bonfield, who takes up his position in January, said that he did not anticipate any "knee-jerk changes".

"The company has made tremendous changes. As to whether there are more things to do - I think so, but at this stage that is a gut reaction." Mr Bonfield will be paid a basic salary of £475,000 plus an annual bonus of up to 50 per cent of that amount and participation in a long-term incentive scheme.

His appointment is initially on a fixed three-year basis, reverting to a one-year rolling contract.

Sir Iain will retain his £480,000 salary with no bonus or incentive entitlement.



All change: Peter Bonfield becomes chief executive in January. Photograph: Geraint Lewis

## Man with the iron will

Peter Bonfield's rise to the top job at BT came as something of a surprise, not least because the 51-year-old businessman has always made clear his desire to return to the United States, where he spent years with Texas Instruments, writes Mary Fagan.

His accent comes from somewhere in the Mid-Atlantic, masking his Hertfordshire roots. In his own words, the way he speaks "tells you that I am not a normal English person. My passport is European British."

In his 10 years as chairman and chief executive of ICL, the UK computer company now owned by Fujitsu of Japan, Mr Bonfield has gained a reputation as a determined and sometimes ruthless manager. His easy-going and bantering manner hides what is regarded as an iron will when it comes to business matters. He admits to being sometimes insensitive and "ruthlessly persistent" but those who know him also regard him as scrupulously fair and "very straight and open."

One ICL insider said: "He has a deadpan sense of humour. He is very charming in a curious sort of way." Mr Bonfield once claimed that much of his approach to life started with the strict discipline imposed by the nuns at his convent school. That could be one reason why he still looks and is extremely fit. He runs every day in spite of the heavy work schedule.

The new BT boss is an engineer who joined Texas Instruments after graduating from Loughborough University. It was with TI in Texas that he met his wife Josephine and developed his love of American life to which he is determined to return. "My long-term personal goal has not changed. I do enjoy the States and I do have strong links there. If you ask me whether I imagine retiring under a palm tree that the answer is yes - but in the meantime I have to earn a living," he said.

His arrival at BT has been under negotiation since spring. The new job will mean some diminution of other roles. Although he intends to stay on the board of ICL, Mr Bonfield must now consider his part-time posts, including those of non-executive director of BICC and Zeneca.

It is, as he said, "a very big job".

## Coutts rethink means jobs axe

NIGEL COPE

Coutts & Co, the blue-blooded private bank where the Queen holds her account, will announce a large number of redundancies on Monday as part of a radical efficiency drive to improve the bank's performance. It is thought that several hundred jobs losses could be involved.

It will be the second time in four years that the bank has wielded the axe on its once cosseted staff. In 1991 it shed 300 jobs after the group recorded a £15m loss.

All 1,600 of the bank's UK staff have been told to attend an "All Staff Event" at the Royal Festival Hall on Monday evening. Attendance is compulsory and will see staff converging on the arena from the group's 10 London branches as well as satellite offices in Bath, Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff.

At the meeting, Coutts chief executive Herschel Post will outline the bank's strategy but also discuss the need for a leaner and more efficient operation. Coutts confirmed that a "substantial number" of jobs will go over the next one to two years but that a final figure had not yet been arrived at.

"The main part of the evening is to discuss the future of the bank and how we expand the business," a spokesman said. The bank is hoping to achieve the cuts via voluntary redundancies but may have to resort to compulsory cuts if not enough volunteers come forward. Commenting on the reasons for the cutbacks the bank said: "We have found that some of our internal procedures are inefficient and burdensome."

Coutts said that it is still intent on growing the business and that it is performing well. However, group profits last year fell from £79m to £68m, though the UK division performed well. One problem is that the market for private banking has become increasingly competitive in recent years. In addition to the old guard of Coutts, Hoare & Co, Child & Co and Adam & Co, the high street banks such as Midland and Lloyds have been investing heavily in private banking businesses. Coutts is owned by NatWest.

The UK market for private banking is growing at around 6 per cent a year while the general banking market is considered as a mature sector. Though Coutts has quietly been broadening its customer base it still requires customers to have income of around £100,000 year and/or assets of £150,000.

## Amec and McAlpine await Kvaerner move

RUSSELL HOTTEN

UK construction groups Amec and Alfred McAlpine were last night waiting for Norway's Kvaerner to break the deadlock in the three-way takeover battle.

Kvaerner, the offshore construction and shipbuilding group, was expected to decide early next week whether to mount a hostile bid for Amec after failing to reach an agreed deal on Thursday.

Amec yesterday raised the stakes with a proposed two-for-one all-share takeover of McAlpine, which valued the target at about £100m and raised the prospect of further much-needed rationalisation of the construction sector.

McAlpine said the offer could not be valued while Amec's share price was fluctuating in response to Kvaerner's intentions. "The board of Alfred McAlpine will respond to the board of Amec when the outcome of the discussions between Kvaerner and Amec is known."

McAlpine has struggled and its shares have significantly underperformed the market in the 1990s. Representatives of McAlpine family trusts, which control 15 per cent, had called on the management to merge with a larger contractor.

Contested takeovers are a rarity among Scandinavian companies, but the way in which Kvaerner swooped on Amec shares on Thursday, taking its stake to 12 per cent, convinced analysts that a hostile bid was likely. After the dawn share raid Kvaerner approached Amec for talks on a takeover worth £1.1bn, an offer that was rejected as grossly undervalued.

Clifford German

Virgin Direct, the telephone-based financial company owned by Richard Branson is severing its links with Norwich Union barely nine months after they set up the joint venture.

Norwich Union is to launch its own direct selling operation in January, while Virgin has formed a new partnership with AMP, the Australian insurance group which owns Pearl Assurance. Both Norwich and Virgin claimed yesterday that they were still on excellent terms despite the split.

Norwich Union will continue to manage existing Virgin products, while AMP will inject £50m into Virgin's phone-selling operation.

Mr Branson said: "We believe customers around the world are crying out for the potent mix of accessible products and rock bottom charges we have perfected over the past year. Collaborating with AMP will mean we can replicate our success on a world-wide basis."

Norwich Union Direct will initially sell motor and household insurance, then moving into unit trusts and PEPs. Analysts were unclear yesterday why Norwich and Virgin should have cut their ties so soon. Alan Richards, life assurance analyst at James Capel, said: "It maybe that Virgin had big ambitions and Norwich Union was not prepared to fund them. Maybe Norwich Union wanted to learn something about brand marketing from Virgin."

Virgin plans to expand its product range to include more investment funds, portable pensions and term assurance.

## No office hours for Sir Colin

SIMON PINCOMBE

Another strand is woven into the rich tapestry that is the working week of Sir Colin Marshall. BT yesterday revealed that the erstwhile head of British Airways will pick up £65,000 a year as its new deputy chairman following a boardroom shakeup. Unfortunately Sir Colin was not available to comment on his latest new job. He was in Hong Kong for a monthly board meeting of HSBC, which he is paid £19,000 a year to attend, dropping in on his way back from the Qantas annual meeting in Australia.

Since his resignation as chief executive of BA earlier this month (he remains chairman) Sir Colin has moved quickly to repair the as yet undisclosed damage to his £765,000 salary. But there is increasing concern that the urbane businessman may soon have difficulty meeting all his commitments. Certainly BT is reluctant to pin him down to normal office hours.

"His time commitment is flexible," said a BT spokesman. "But he has specific duties and he will chair the remuneration and audit committees."

As non-executive chairman of BA, Sir Colin is expected to devote half his working week to the airline and observers say they would be surprised if he was paid much less than £450,000. Then he must put in one and a half days a week as non-executive chairman of Inchcape, the motor distributor, earning £200,000 a year, with Inchcape sharing his car and chauffeur expenses with BA.

The workload looks even more daunting next spring when Sir Colin takes over as deputy president of the Confederation of British Industry. Although unpaid, this is a time-consuming job. "He will be required to attend council meetings, committee meetings, eat dinners and make speeches," says a CBI spokesman.

His arrival at BT has been under negotiation since spring. The new job will mean some diminution of other roles. Although he intends to stay on the board of ICL, Mr Bonfield must now consider his part-time posts, including those of non-executive director of BICC and Zeneca.

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## Yes, Geest will have no bananas

NIGEL COPE

Geest, Britain's largest and best-known banana importer, put its banana business up for sale yesterday, signalling the end of a 40-year trading link.

In a flurry of activity, Geest issued a statement saying it was in discussions to sell the business. Hours later, Fyffes, the Irish group that is Geest's main UK rival, said it was interested in bidding and had formed a joint venture with the Windward Islands Banana Company to make a competing offer.

The sale is expected to yield in excess of £75m. The deal will mark the end of Geest's often troubled relationship with banana importing. The business has recently been hit by tropical storms, disease and hurricanes.

Geest was originally founded by the Dutch van Geest family in Britain in the 1930s when it specialised in the sale of Dutch flower bulbs. It began importing bananas in 1953 when it was asked by the British government to develop a commercial banana business. It gradually built up a fleet of a dozen ships importing fruit from the Windward Islands. Four years ago it bought a 3,000-hectare banana plantation in Costa Rica.

Though the Geest family still own a large part of Geest stock they no longer have an active role in the running of the business and do not sit on the board. Leonard van Geest is chairman of Littlewoods, the retail and football pools group.

More recently, Geest has had a rocky ride due to the volatility of the banana business. Hurricanes and tropical diseases have forced it to issue a flurry of profit warnings. The shares have slumped from 371p in January 1994 to a low of 107p earlier this month. Yesterday they jumped 25p to 142p.

The latest warning on trading came earlier this month when the company said a banana glut and a sharp fall in banana prices would mean that this year's profits would be "materially below" last year's figure of £12.8m. Analysts are now forecasting that the company will record a £4m loss in the year to December after £12m of restructuring charges.

The company blamed a 30 per cent drop in the price of bananas between this October and the same month last year. Fyffes's collaboration with the Windward banana company follows the island's fears that the sale of the Geest business could harm the four islands that supply the UK with a large part of their bananas.

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# Messrs Nice and Nasty go to war with OfTel



Why else would BT have nailed its colours to Labour's mast ... if it did not see a change of government as the best way to sort out its problems with the regulator?

The recruitment of Peter Bonfield as chief executive of BT is hard to fault, and makes the succession planning over at Cable & Wireless look doubly incompetent. Mr Bonfield understands information technology, he has run a substantial corporation in the international and fiercely competitive computer business and he knows about marketing.

Yesterday Mr Bonfield was denying that his systems expertise would lead to big changes at BT, apart from an order to turn up the air-conditioning, which he found too chilly. But an understanding of the digital revolution cannot be a drawback at a company facing accelerating technical change.

Running the company as chief executive is not the most serious challenge he will face. The really big issue at BT is the open warfare that has broken out with Don Cruickshank, the telecoms regulator. This will dominate the company's fortunes over the next 10 years, since the outcome will affect BT's ability to preserve its core business and to compete with newcomers in the telecommunications industry.

Battle lines were drawn on Thursday, when Sir Iain said Mr Cruickshank was going beyond his regulatory role by siding with BT's competitors and distorting the marketplace, turning himself into a competition authority. Mr Cruickshank, for his part, repeated his long-standing complaint about BT's expertise in getting round the regulatory rules. He is drawing up a new regula-

tory regime, which if approved, would allow him to define anti-competitive behaviour and order the company to stop it while an investigation takes place.

BT's objections are so vehement that it is now a foregone conclusion that, unless Mr Cruickshank backs down, the whole issue will end up with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for adjudication.

That is bound to be the issue on which Mr Bonfield's stewardship at BT will be judged. He and Sir Iain Vallance, who continues for the moment as full-time chairman, are said to be as one in their views on Mr Cruickshank and it looks as if they are planning to run a double act. The bland Sir Iain will be cast as Mr Nice and the outspoken Mr Bonfield as Mr Nasty, as they attempt to put the boot in to the regulator.

This is a sad and dangerous situation for both sides. Nobody questions the need for a regulator to put pressure on BT, which is still the dominant telecommunications company in Britain, after a decade of government encouragement to competitors.

There have indeed been tremendous improvements over that period in customer service, and OfTel can take plenty of the credit for it.

But this row could have highly unpredictable results. Early this year, the City probably underestimated Mr Cruickshank's power to cause trouble. The share price fell since then suggests this risk has been fully taken on board. But whatever happens, it

would be rash to assume the outcome of the row will be to the benefit of BT.

This is why Sir Iain, to be followed soon by Mr Bonfield, is straying into deeper political waters. Why else would BT have nailed its colours to Labour's mast - in that famous deal to cable schools and hospitals announced by Tony Blair at the Labour Party conference - if it did not see a change of government as the best way to sort out its problems with the regulator?

## Paying handsomely for personal service

Behind the frock coats, refined accents and embossed brochures, private banking is a business like any other. Right now it is booming. With annual growth rates of 6 per cent in the UK, it makes mainstream high street banking look sluggish. Much of the great British public may feel rather poor at the moment, but the private bankers will tell a different story, of unprecedented wealth cascading down from inherited houses, the sale of family businesses, the well-publicised excesses of share options and the telephone number salaries of youthful sport and media super-stars.

But the problem is that every bank wants a piece of the action. As the big banks rationalise high street branches, so they are opening up private banking offices. The sizeable staff cutbacks at Coutts may, at first sight,

seem to be inconsistent with this growth, but they fit into the powerful logic of streamlining and efficiency that is driving the banking sector. Even when it comes to pampering the rich, there is no room for the generous bank staffing levels of yesteryear.

Coutts, in particular, has had to adapt. But the fact remains that private banking today is, in many respects, a bit of a marketing trick. There are of course the seriously rich who, when they don't actually own their bank, will deal with the discreet houses of Geneva and Zurich.

But private banking is now being hawked around to anyone with liquid assets of £75,000 or so. In reality, what the banks, which include Midland, Lloyds and Barclays as well as the posher names, are offering is the sort of personalised service that 15 years ago would have been considered standard for high street banking. Now, you have to pay handsomely for the privilege. Some call that progress.

## High time that Britain joined Europe

The forces of light and darkness are again on the march, and just for a change Right might win. John Butterfield's parliamentary bill to synchronise Britain's clocks with its neighbours has a good chance of ending up private banking offices. The economic logic for increasing daylight by an hour during win-

ter evenings (and therefore reducing it in the morning) is overwhelming.

According to the Policy Studies Institute, this simple switch to single European time would generate £1bn for the tourist industry and cut £250m off electricity bills. More than £200m would be saved in health service costs due to a fall in the number of road deaths and injuries, and opportunistic burglaries which need the cover of darkness to be cut. Airlines would be relieved of a timetabling nightmare, and business travellers to the Continent could use that extra hour at the negotiating table.

So what's the problem? Scotland and Northern Ireland (and a few Euro-sceptic MPs who believe that the world should fall into step with Britain). No one can feel anything but genuine sympathy for those who have to work in the dark hours of the morning, especially Scottish farmers.

But opinion polls show that not all people in the far-flung reaches are against the change. If the Government is worried about alienating certain areas - particularly Scotland - how about allowing them a different time zone? Sir Alastair Morton, a man who has of course done much to bring Britain closer to the Continent, says: "If Northern Ireland wishes to remain behind and if Britain's Celtic fringe wants to join them, so be it." Other countries in northern Europe cope, adapting businesses affected to the conditions - using more industrial lighting, or working flexi-time. Britain can, too.

Battle for Forte: Robinson will discuss terms with key shareholder group

## Granada piles on the pressure

JOHN SHEPHERD and MATHEW HORSMAN

Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada, is to meet with the Hon. Hugh Astor, chairman of the powerful Forte Council, next week, to discuss terms of Granada's £3.3bn hostile bid for the hotels operator.

The Council holds just 780,000 shares but 50 per cent of all votes, and its view may be key to the outcome of Granada's bid.

Meanwhile, the official 60-day takeover clock started ticking yesterday, with the release of the formal offer document just two days after Granada made its hostile £3.3bn move against the largest hotels group in the UK.

Analysts said the swift publication clearly signalled Granada's intent to pile on the pressure, giving Forte as little time as possible to mount counter action. Companies can wait up to 21 days after making a bid before releasing the formal offer document. According to that document, Mr Robinson sold 270,800 shares in June, pocketing £1.2m.

Confidence at Forte remains high despite the onslaught by Granada, and there is a growing consensus that Forte's prime planks of defence will be a fire-sale of assets and an acquisition of an international hotels group to bolster the Meridien chain it bought earlier this year.

"We are looking at all the

options... we ain't going to be short of ideas," a Forte spokesman said. "We don't think the offer document really adds anything."

The spokesman attacked Granada's financial performance. "In the last two years we have grown earnings per share by 248 per cent and he's grown Granada's by 53 per cent."

Forte's shares fell 5p to 346p yesterday, but still remain above the value of the four for one share swap and £23.25 cash being offered by Granada. Shares in Granada slipped 2p to 651p, making the value of its offer worth 328.6p per Forte share.

Yet more attacks were launched by the Granada camp. Mr Robinson lambasted Forte's

financial record under Sir Rocco Forte, and spelt out in detail how he could extract greater profits from the hotels.

"Forte is viewed as being a high-class hotel company. It isn't. It makes most of its money from mid-market hotels and motels, restaurants. So it makes a lot of sense for Granada to be interested."

"There are many small things we can do to create value. Something as simple as getting Granada's rentals division to supply the television equipment for hotels," Mr Robinson added. "Branding is very much part of our approach. That is why we want to develop the Meridien chain, and to make two strong brands in the mid market."

Sir Rocco says Mr Robinson knows nothing about the business, and has made his bid two years too late. "The closest Mr Robinson gets to marketing is his big mouth," he said.

Some analysts also have yet to be convinced by Mr Robinson. One said: "He has said nothing about information technology... You can't run an international hotel booking system, let alone compete, without pumping millions into technology."

Mr Robinson said that he was well aware of the importance of IT. "You need sophisticated systems but to track revenues per room and other measures. You can know everything you need instantaneously."

### Robinson on Forte

"These assets have been under-managed and the company has performed poorly, that is clear."

I guess he was really surprised by this. I hear he had to come back from pheasant shooting. I got invited on pheasant shoots all the time. I just can't stand the idea of doing it.

I think it highly unlikely that Rocco would want to stay with the company in the event of our offer being successful.

Of course he has taken this badly. He's upset about it. We'll have to wait until things settle down a bit.

I've played golf with him a few times. I like him. But this is not a personal thing.



Gerry Robinson

### Forte on Robinson

"He knows nothing about this business."

He has no skills to run a hotels business.

The closest Mr Robinson gets to marketing is his big mouth.

He is two years too late in making a bid. ... he is also two years too late in making the remarks he has made about the company.

He is not saying anything new about our business. We've restructured this business over the last three years. There is huge profit improvement available to us.

The market for trophy properties is improving all the time. If we came out two years ago it would have been a mistake.



Sir Rocco Forte

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

## Welsh Water playing it cool

Welsh Water was yesterday giving nothing away about its designs on South Wales Electricity, despite recent speculation that it had gone cool about bidding for its neighbour.

Before speculative trading in shares in the National Grid started it was thought that Welsh Water was considering a bid in the region of £10.20 a share, which would value Swalec at about £940m.

Nevertheless, most analysts are expecting the water company to make a move, an expectation that yesterday overshadowed its half-year results. A 3.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £80.6m before exceptional items was bang in line with forecasts. Last year's numbers were distorted by £28.5m in restructuring costs.

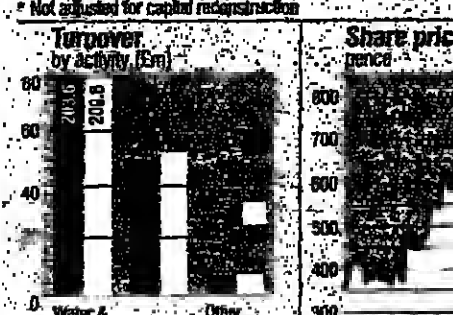
The company seems to have coped well during this summer's drought. But the extra spending on tankers and piping to ensure continuity of supplies to customers cut into profits. Operating profits in the regulated business dipped by £3m to £84.7m, even if Welsh Water at least had a publicity coup in being able to keep the water flowing.

The fall in regulated profits offset a better-than-expected performance in the unregulated businesses. Operating profits here were up from £3.4m to £3.6m, on turnover of £26.3m, against £23.1m before. The performance of the engineering business has improved thanks to the restructuring, while the business produced operating profits of £100,000, against last time's £2.8m loss, which included

### Welsh Water: at a glance

Market value: £930m, share price 690p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1994	1995
Turnover (£m)	263	263	263	263	263
Pre-tax profits (£m)	155	144	120	144	155
Operating profits (£m)	84	81	84	84	84
Dividends per share (pence)	23.5	25	25	25	25
Not adjusted for capital restructuring					



Source: Company Accounts

restructuring provisions. Group turnover grew by 3.7 per cent to £269.5m, while earnings per share soared from 33p to 57.4p. The dividend, 11.5 per cent up at 12.6p, was in line with expectations.

Price rises agreed with the Director General of Water Services, effective from the start of this financial year, means charges to customers have been increased above the rate of inflation for the first time in 11 years, albeit only marginally. Full-year profit forecasts are around £160m, putting the shares at 690p, down 5p, on a prospective price/earnings ratio of just 7. With a prospective yield of only around 3.4 per cent and the bid for Swalec in the balance, investors would be wise to hold fire until the picture becomes clearer.

### LCI worth a gamble

Jaded investors put off the betting industry by a recent string of National Lottery-inspired profits warnings should take a look at London Clubs International. Since floating on the Unlisted Securities Market at 200p last year, the now fully-quoted casino operator has seen its share price more than double.

Yesterday's half-year figures give some clue as to why. Pre-tax profits jumped by an underlying 11 per cent to £19.3m in the six months to 24 September. At that level, they are more than the figure for the whole of 1994 and over twice the profits struck in 1993.

Unlike more downmarket betting operators, LCI is little affected by the lottery. Punters spend anything from £30 to over £1,000 a night at the group's mainly London casinos, putting them out of reach of the average lottery player.

Its three flagship operations, including the Ritz in Piccadilly and Les Ambassadeurs off Park Lane, still produce 69 per cent of LCI's half-year profits.

But the contribution is 10 percentage points down on last year and the real encouragement from the latest figures comes in the continued bounce back from the group's less excited casinos.

The Golden Nugget, which attracts custom from workers in and around London's Chinatown, is now making a "useful" contribution after sinking into loss in 1993.

Meanwhile, the Palm Beach has been turned round by extracting more from the punters. LCI should be able to work the same magic at the recently-acquired London Park Tower Casino, where the "win" percentage (actually the amount lost by customers) could be raised from its previous level of 14 per cent to nearer the group average of 20 per cent within a year.

This broadening of the earnings base is good news, but LCI's profits remain at risk to the volatile whims of high-rolling punters, which explains the relatively low rating of the shares.

Up 1p at 410p, they are on a forward multiple of 12, assuming full-year profits hit £37m this year. Worth holding.

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	9th Chicago	5th Madrid	11th Hong Kong	
December 1995	17th London		14th London	June 1996
7th Boston	18th Brussels		14th Singapore	13th London
11th New York	31st Frankfurt		tbc Jakarta	
12th San Francisco				
13th London				

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Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of years' work experience: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you hold an undergraduate degree? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
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COMPANY RESULTS	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Amberley Group (p)	7.57m (5.21m)	0.82m (0.55m)	1.39p (1.19p)	0.3p (0.25p)
Cambridge Water (p)	7.73m (7.47m)	2.67m (2.72m)	51.2p (50.0p)	1.75p (1.25p)
Dart Group (p)	35.0m (27.5m)	2.02m (1.44m)	6.8p (6.5p)	1.5p (1.5p)
Grampian (p)	12.7m (10.1m)	2.92m (1.8m)	5.9p (4p)	1.25p (2p)
London Clubs International (p)	68.5m (67.7m)	19.3m (16.3m)	17.7p (15.5p)	5p (4.25p)
James Latham (p)	40.8m (40.4m)	0.78m (1.14m)	10.75p (16.61p)	2.25p (2.25p)
Osborne & Little (p)	12.8m (11.7m)	1.68m (1.51m)	16.93p (15.19p)	4.3p (4.5p)
Horsing Home Properties (p)	0.82m (1.1m)	0.14m (1.1m)	2.3p (1.1m)	0.3p (1.1m)
Roadstone Technology (p)	8.33m (14.7m)	-2.98m (1.01m)	-13.43p (8.58p)	nil (0.825p)
Seaboard (p)	51.2m (50.9m)	38.4m (33.9m)	11.5p (9.1p)	nil (4p)
Sae (p)	27.8m (19.3m)	1.18m (1.13m)	5.1p (5.43p)	3.75p (5.25p)
Sheldahl Sakers (p)	25.8m (23.2m)	-0.63m (0.57m)	-1.2p (0.5p)	0.375p (0.75p)
St James's Place Capital (p)	19.5m (23.2m)	15.4m (16.5m)	3.9p (4.3p)	1.5p (1.5p)
Welsh Water (p)	270m (260m)	80.6m (77.3m)	57.4p (55p)	12.6p (8.3p)

(p) - Final (f) - Interim (m) - Nine months - 18 months

## IN BRIEF

### Osborne & Little ahead in tough trading

Osborne & Little, the designer and distributor of upmarket wallpaper, expects a "satisfactory" outcome to this year despite difficult trading conditions. The forecast came as the company reported a 12 per cent rise in profits to £1.69m for the six months to September. Net cash has risen from £2.54m to £2.87m since the year end in March and the interim dividend is being hoisted 29 per cent to 4.5p.

### Amberley buys inks maker for £9.5m

Amberley, the speciality minerals and chemicals group, is paying £9.52m for Bousfield Printing Products, a maker and supplier of inks, coatings and printing consumables. The products are used in food packaging, publishing and stationery and Amberley believes Bousfield will fit with its strategy of concentrating on products with a high service content. The acquisition is to be financed by a placing and open offer at 61p a share. Amberley also announced a two-thirds rise in interim profits to £920,000.











## sport

## Pitman consumed by her passions

## FACE TO FACE

One of Britain's most successful trainers talks to Ian Stafford

There are two contrasting sides to Jenny Pitman, successful racehorse trainer, mother, and general thorn in the side of the male-dominated Establishment that still runs the sport of kings.

Her public persona is by far the better known side of this remarkable woman, who will be going for her second Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury this afternoon with Superior Finish.

Described, depending on who you talk to, as bossy, rude or just downright terrifying, she has never been afraid to speak her mind on subjects that leave her male peers squirming around in embarrassment and rage. You can almost hear the reaction when she has another pop at them. "That bloody woman's at it again!"

Jamie Osborne felt the full force of the famous Pitman temper when, feeling that he pushed one of her horses too hard in finishing a race, she slapped his face in the winner's enclosure in front of a packed racing crowd. No wonder, then, that when people heard I was paying her a visit, the most common remark was "Good luck, you'll need it."

Yet there is another, deeper and almost too sensitive side to one of the most successful national hunt trainers in the business. If ever this was underlined then it was at the wedding reception of her son Mark, which was held in a marquee at the famous Pitman home, Weathercock House, in Lambourn.

She took the microphone that night and began a well-intentioned speech aimed at thanking all the owners at the reception who had backed her family through thick and thin. She tried, three times, to get the words out, but in the end gave in to her emotions, and had to be led back to her seat in tears by David Stait, her long-term partner. She mocked herself later for the spectacle, but her actions spoke much louder than any words.

This mixture of success, single-mindedness and vulnerability, judging by the proposal she received this week, is clearly an attractive cocktail to some. "This 71-year-old man wrote me a letter asking for my hand in marriage," she said gleefully. "My vet said I should take up the offer. For some reason I get a lot of love letters, but they're mainly from men between 70 and 90 years old. I might take one up and disappear to Barbados, but it won't be the bloke who sent pictures of himself in compromising positions. I usually write back, thanking them for their support, but I ignored him."

She does not actually have much time for people, though, except for her close family and friends who have remained loyal to her. A poor upbringing on a Leicestershire farm, a divorce from the former jockey and racing broadcaster Richard Pitman, a tough beginning in training, hampered by a lack of funds, facilities, and a universal reluctance to help out a woman who decided to go it alone, all hardened both her resolve to succeed, and her determination never to show any weakness - at least not in public.

"Oh, believe me, when I go rac-



Jenny Pitman, who hopes to win her second Hennessy Gold Cup with Superior Finish at Newbury today, keeps an eye on proceedings at Windsor races this week

Photograph: Peter Jay

ing, I put on my suit of armour, and I don't take it off again until I'm safely back home," she said. "That's when I'll cry if a horse of mine is injured. But never at a course. That would only give the men a chance to put it down to being a woman. It's been a stuffy man's world for too long, but at last a few women are making their way in the sport's administration and they actually want to help you out."

This talk is typical of her. When Weathercock House lost a substantial number of horses in 1993, including 16 re-moved by the owners Bill and Shirley Robbins, the shirley for her career were being written.

She read them, heard the talk in the paddock, and rolled up her sleeves. "Oh sure, the death bells were sounding for me two years ago. People were queuing up to ring them. The country was still recovering from the recession, and the last thing anyone wanted to buy was a racehorse. I had a good kicking. It was like being at the bottom of a rugby scrum, but what people didn't realise was that I've been in worse situations than that."

"When I came here 20 years ago with the kids, after the divorce, we had rats running around, the roof

falling in, no drains, and hot water supplied by boiling pans. In boxing terms, I was knocked down on the canvas for a count of nine. So the problems of two years ago were nothing in comparison. I think somebody summed it up to Dave, the other day at the races. He said: 'It's amazing how the Mrs has picked herself up. But then again, she's always been at her most dangerous when she's on the ropes.' You see, it's not in me to quit."

Indeed it is not. Today she pins her hopes on Superior Finish, boosted by a good start to the season and last year's victories in both the Grand National and Scottish National, courtesy of Royal Athlete and Wilsford. These triumphs merely added to her list of big-race successes, which include the

**'I don't think I've ever been accepted and I don't suppose I ever will be'**

National in 1983 with Corbiere, making her the first woman to train a National winner, the Cheltenham Gold Cup, the following year with Burrough Hill Lad, and a second Gold Cup in 1991, thanks to Garrison Savannah, who also finished second in the National a month later. Add to this her three Welsh Nationals, her King George VI and Mairiel Cups, plus her win in the 1993 Grand National that never was, and she possesses a

curriculum vitae which cannot be ignored.

Except it seems, it still is. "I think I'm now accepted as a good trainer," she said. "But when discussions take place, about the safety of courses, the siting of fences or, indeed, about anything to do with national hunt racing, I can't remember ever being asked my views by anyone in racing."

"I keep seeing this jockey, or that trainer, being asked for opinions by various commissions and boards, and they're all male. I don't think I've ever been accepted and I don't suppose I ever will be. Maybe it's because I'm not articulate or well-educated, and I say what I think. Sometimes it doesn't go down too well."

You can say that again. Take, for example, her view about Peter Scudamore, writer, television commentator and, of course, one of the most successful jump jockeys of all time.

"I heard Scudamore on *Desert Island Discs* the other week," she said. "He said that anyone who tries to relate psychology to training horses should realise that it's a load of nonsense. Well, I feel very sad that someone could have worked with horses for as long as he did and still not get the understanding out of them!"

Scudamore's mistake was to criticise horses which, in Pitman's book, is a cardinal sin. She can take or leave people, but never horses,

and this is why her views may be seen as forthright, but are never the less always with the horse's welfare in mind.

She is so concerned about the treatment of racehorses that, following on from the television documentary last month, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, she is now calling for a radical move in racing.

"Let's just say that there are stables where big improvements are needed in terms of caring for the horses," she said. "I've had horses returned to me from those stables in an appalling state. I want to see random and unannounced inspections at every stable at least every year."

"The inspector, appointed by the Jockey Club, should have a computer list of all the horses in the stables and see all of them."

He or she will know about injured horses, and demand to see them and, if necessary, vet's reports as well. If any yard doesn't come up to scratch, then the trainer should be cautioned, and if that doesn't work, the trainer should be slapped hard.

"The sport should stand up and address problems like this, instead of sitting down, as if it's wearing a leaking nappy. The Jockey Club should admit this is a problem area,

cut out the red wine for lunch, and appoint someone to deal with it."

A mischievous smile then follows. "Come to think about it, I'd be perfect for the job when, or if, I retire from this game. I've always wanted one of their tin badges."

She has other concerns, too, with racing. "Trainers are being blamed by the clerks of the courses for not running our horses because the ground is too dangerous. They may not be happy with just three horses entering £40,000 races, but we have a moral obligation to the horse and to the owner's investment, and until they improve course conditions, that's the way it's going to stay."

"I was arguing with a clerk last year about this, and in the end I asked him if he could lend me a horse to ride."

When he asked me why, I told him I wanted to light it and throw it in his car's petrol tank, because that's what his course would do to my horse."

Then there is summer jump racing. "It's not been in the horse's interest," she said. "It may give smaller trainers a chance, but it's immoral to run big, jumping horses on hard ground. I get owners who watch these summer meetings on TV and then tell me how glad they

**'All I've ever wanted to do is be with horses and I'll always put them first'**

are that their horses are out in my field. The two summer months of rest are when many young horses change from boys to men, and by busting them up on summer courses we're not giving them a chance to develop. It also means that we have a stupid calendar now, where nobody knows when the meetings are any more."

Even smaller issues do not escape the Pitman eye. "Racecourse officials have either got to stop wearing their fluorescent coats, or move from the inside to the outside of the course," she said. "Horses go crazy when they see those coats. I've written this down for a trainer to use in a meeting which, inevitably, I haven't been invited to."

There then follows a knowing look: "I do a lot of undercover work like that," which she follows with an explanation. "It's all because I'm passionate about horses. All I've ever wanted to do, except for becoming a traveller and roaming the countryside with my father in a caravan, is to be with horses, and I'll always put them first."

Try as some might, there seems to be no stopping Pitman, and while her success on the course continues, and with her son and assistant trainer, Mark, waiting in the wings to take over at Weathercock House, the Pitman family looks set to remain in the forefront of national hunt racing, for some time yet.

Bad news for the admin men, good news for the horses.

## Council snub Bell plan

Skiing  
LIZ SEARL

A plan to revamp British skiing, backed by Martin Bell and Konrad Bartelski, has failed to persuade the Sports Council to reinstate over £100,000 of grants to the British Ski Federation.

Instead the council, which cut the BSF's £300,000 grant because it was unhappy with recent results in competition, has asked the BSF to contribute to a working group which will look into other methods of coaching competitive skiing in Britain.

Before the two sides met last week, the council was expected to confirm that new coaching proposals and a restructuring of the British junior team would be enough to secure the support of the council. Instead the chief executive, Derek Casey, has called for further investigation into

the subject by coaching experts and members of the federation. Casey will announce a short-term decision on funding of the BSF on 30 November, but the working group is not expected to report back until February 1996.

Sceptics within the Sports Council do not believe the BSF will be able to reach a coaching agreement with the four home country teams, who will be deprived of talent and influence if the British junior team reforms - as suggested in the BSF's blueprint for the future. "I don't think they have the necessary support of the home countries," a Sports Council spokesman said.

However, Mike Jardine, chief executive of the BSF, expressed concern that the Sports Council's indecision could actually bankrupt the BSF. "Unless we sort out the problems in the short term there will be no BSF left for the long term," he said.

## Collins looks past Carr

Boxing

Nigel Benn will be at the ring-side as an invited guest at The Point in Dublin today when Steve Collins defends his World Boxing Organisation championship against Cornelius Carr.

That invitation should fuel speculation that Benn and Collins will meet next spring in a world super-middleweight bout where the WBO and World Boxing Council titles would be at stake.

Collins will therefore be careful not to underestimate Middlesbrough's Carr in the second defence of the championship he took from Chris Eubank in March - and retained in September. Collins earned £1.2m for the second Eubank fight and

should again be in that bracket for tackling the WBC champion Benn who, in turn, must get past a mandatory defence against Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, in late February.

"I'm not going to insult Cornelius Carr by talking about an upcoming fight with Nigel Benn. But yes, of course, I have my eye on one," Collins said.

The challenger has not mixed in the same kind of company as Collins, but has won 25 of his 26 bouts. "People say I haven't got the power to hurt him but they haven't seen me training with cruiserweights. I'm stronger than I've ever been," Carr said.

With Benn promising to be the next stop for Collins, Carr is unlikely to stall the Irishman, but could take him the distance.

## WARWICK

HYPERION

12.30 Harding 1.00 Moment of Glory 1.35 Dearly Calls 2.05 The Bud Club 2.35 Roboro 3.05 Wave Hill 3.35 Tompetto

GOING: Good (Good to firm in places).

Left-hand course, run-in of 240 yards. The racecourse is west of city on B4005. There is a regular bus service from the railway stations at both Warwick (1st away) and Leamington Spa (over 20 min away). ADDRESSES: Club £12 (116 to 21-year-olds 50); Tattersalls £8; Course 5%. CAR PARK: £3.

SIS RACING

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Cellist (1.00) won at Towcester on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Uffoe (2.05) has been sent 178 miles by P. Bowen from Herefordshire, Dyfed.

QUINTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,250 added 2m

1. 503-211 LE ROSE (2) (2) M. J. Murphy 4 11.8 R. Parnell

2. 503-211 LE ROSE (2) (2) M. J. Murphy 4 11.8 R. Parnell

3. 503-211 LE ROSE (2) (2) M. J. Murphy 4 11.8 R. Parnell

4. 503-211 LE ROSE (2) (2) M. J. Murphy 4 11.8 R. Parnell

5. 503-211 LE ROSE (2) (2) M. J. Murphy 4 11.8 R. Parnell

6. 503-211 LE ROSE (2) (2) M. J. Murphy 4 11.8 R. Parnell

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# Brooks holds Better value

## Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

The most interesting racing event of the week has not been the Hennessy Gold Cup. The contest that has attracted the most comment has been the race within a race: the jockeys' scramble, won by Mark Dwyer, to claim the mount on this afternoon's short-priced favourite, One Man.

Such is the grey's perceived hegemony that the principal difficulty was not considered getting him round Newbury, but rather getting the seat on his back in the first place.

Two races provide the explanation for this atmosphere. Firstly, One Man was an outrageously easy winner of his customarily competitive race 12 months ago, and he was no less impressive when skipping away from his field at Ayr on his seasonal reappearance. The two races in between would provide rather less fragrance for One

Man supporters, however. Last Christmas, he severed the connection with Tony Dobbin at Wetherby and then, at Kempton, hit the ground as hard as a parachutist suffering a malfunction.

Gordon Richards, the seven-year-old's trainer, has reported that his charge has subsequently jumped 60 fences at home without a semblance of error. That provides comforting rather than compelling evidence (rather like walking along a plank in the back garden in preparation for crossing a chasm on the same piece of wood).

One Man, it must be said, has been beaten only once in nine completed chances, and if he wins here he will immediately step aboard the upward escalator to greatness, as Arkle is the only other horse to capture consecutive Hennessys.

But the facts that his jumping will be thoroughly examined and that he is 24lb higher in the handicap than 12 months ago mean he is poor value at 6-4. The grey does at least match

part of the winner's photofit for the race, which, for the last 11 years, has gone to an improving, relatively young horse. In

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: Could Be Better (Newcastle 2.40)  
NB: Morrell (Newcastle 2.40)

that decade, the oldest winner has been nine, while no favourite has been victorious.

HENNESSY 10-YEAR-OLD											
Year	1985	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
Winner	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Placed	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Placed places	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12
Age	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Weight	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Profit or loss to 1st place	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Percentage of winners placed 2nd or 3rd in last season	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
Shortest-priced winner One Man (1.10)											
Longest-priced winner One Man (1.10)											
Top trainer: M. S. P. Morris (1985-1994)											
Top jockey: P. S. Morris (1985-1994)											
Notes: F = faller; P = pulled-up; PP = joint-favorites pulled-up; J = joint-favorites											

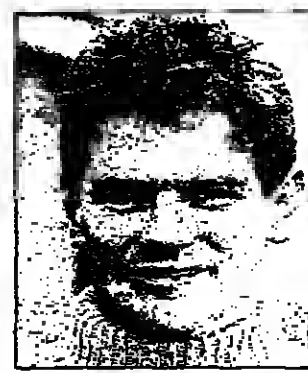
This profile rules out the other previous winners, Chariot and Cogent, but highlights the prospects of one of Charlie Brooks's two runners, Couldnt Be Better.

The eight-year-old has had his problems - he formerly had the breathing of an old miser and once broke a blood vessel - but all that looked distant history when he scampered in at Haydock on his seasonal reappearance. According to his trainer, the present condition of

Couldnt Be Better (nap 2.40) is mirrored in his name. It should, though, be a grey's day at Newcastle, where Britain's other well-known racehorse of that hue, Morrell (next best 2.40), competes in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle. Howard Johnson's gelding, who took a heavy tumble over fences at Ascot last Saturday, is sympathetically handicapped over the smaller obstacles and should be too robust for Absalom's Lady.

Richard Dunwoody misses the competition in Britain as he travels to Ireland to partner Merry Gale in a particularly interesting Punchestown Chase. Over a trip of two and a half miles, Jim Dreaper's gelding has prospects of reversing form with his recent conqueror, Kiaroo Davis, but there is another consideration in Buck Rogers, who launches into the fray with a defeat of another Irishman, Strong Platinum, under his jockey.

In the early hours of tomorrow, Pure Grain participates in



Dwyer: scorable winner

the Japan Cup, which, in one sense, is the oriental version of the Breckers' Cup. The British always go there, but they seldom win. The last victory from these shores was in 1986 with Clive Brittain's Jupiter Island, and for those who like easy connections, Pure Grain is also trained in Newmarket, by Michael Stoute.

The filly's price of 10-1 accurately reflects her chance as she goes into battle with the other European runners, Hernandez, Carling and Lando. The increasingly powerful home team is expected to prevail, however, with either Hishi Amazon or Narita Brian, the 1994 Japanese Triple Crown winner.

## River runs in Rome

Chutes to the Champion Hurdle are as likely to be found in Rome as at Newcastle or Newbury this weekend when River North takes part in the Premio Roma Vecchia on Sunday. Trained by Lady Hempel, the gelding has yet to jump a hurdle in public but has the task of wrestling the hurdling championship from another smart flat performer, Alderbrook, as his target.

The Kevin Darley-ridden five-year-old is one of five British runners in the Group Three event, with the contingent

completed by Asteris (ridden by Gary Carter), Chief Bee (Willie Carson), Kristal's Parade (Giovanni Forti) and Saxon Maid (Lanfranco Dettori). The Queen's Sharp, trained by Lord Huntingdon and ridden by Olivier Peslier, thwarted the Mark Johnston-trained Branton Abbey, under Jason Weaver, to spearhead a British one-two in the Listed Prix Contessa at Evry yesterday. The Royal runner made virtually all to beat last year's winner by a nose.

## NEWBURY

1.15: The juvenile class of 1994-95, which has failed to make the grade so far this season, sends out its two most distinguished pupils in Kiaroo and Stompin, but both have disappointed since their big wins at Cheltenham and Liverpool. Stompin will be aided by good going but prefers a tighter track. FOURTH IN LINE, lightly raced for a five-year-old, won first time out last term. He scored emphatically in January and should signal further progress here.

1.50: The veteran Simpson, third in the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham last March, has the best form of the established performers, but his stable is out of winning form, as it was this time last year. Jibber The Kib-



ber made an impressive return at Cheltenham, in the event used by the breeder as a stepping stone to success here 12 months ago. Jenny Pottam's six-year-old could be improving rapidly enough to come off best again but CONQUERING LEADER, 12lb better off for two lengths (Silver Hedge), is also on the upgrade and should keep pace with him on this occasion.

## NEWCASTLE

2.10: FIVELEIGH BUILDS blundered at the final fence when third to Wheat Fettle at Kelso last week. Now 4lb better off with Emerald Mea (ahead in second place that day) he can reverse the form.

2.40: Absalom's Lady is classy and would be tough to beat if the going turned soft. But the forecast good ground, and this stiff track, is ideal for CHIEF MINISTER.

3.10: MCGREGOR THE THIRD will be at mean odds to land this.

3.40: THORNTON GATE is only a half-price chance in a particularly tricky last event for punters.

## NEWCASTLE

12.40 Executive Design 2.10 Chief Minister (nb)  
1.10 Chippell Curious 3.10 McGregor The Third  
1.40 Easy Joker 3.40 Thornton Gate  
2.10 Fiveleigh Builds

GOING: Good.  
Left-hand course, with rising run-in; tough, galloping track.  
Course in A1, 5th round of 1995. After service from Newmarket racing station, Newmarket to Newcastle, 15.10 (15.10-15.15). Newcastle to Newmarket, 15.15 (15.15-15.20). Newcastle to Newmarket, 15.20 (15.20-15.25). Newcastle to Newmarket, 15.25 (15.25-15.30). Newcastle to Newmarket, 15.30 (15.30-15.35). Newcastle to Newmarket, 15.35 (15.35-15.40). Newcastle to Newmarket, 15.40 (15.40-15.45). Newcastle to Newmarket, 15.45 (15.45-15.50). Newcastle to Newmarket, 15.50 (15.50-15.55). Newcastle to Newmarket, 15.55 (15.55-16.00). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.00 (16.00-16.05). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.05 (16.05-16.10). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.10 (16.10-16.15). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.15 (16.15-16.20). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.20 (16.20-16.25). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.25 (16.25-16.30). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.30 (16.30-16.35). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.35 (16.35-16.40). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.40 (16.40-16.45). Newcastle to Newmarket, 16.45 (16.45-16.50). 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# Robson relishing the Riverside challenge

Gienn Moore meets a former England captain whose style of management is making its mark on the Premiership

Odd, really, that while everyone wondered why on earth Juninho wanted to move to Middlesbrough no one appeared to wonder, 18 months ago, why Bryan Robson was going there. After all, Robson, arguably the best all-round English footballer of his generation, could have waited for any number of Premiership possibilities. The Manchester City job comes up every year while Aston Villa is another regular vacancy.

Now it seems obvious. Robson was off to become Teeside's answer to Kevin Keegan. Middlesbrough's very own Messiah. He would bring world-class footballers to an area previously undisturbed by footballing glory which was still living on the memories of Marnion, Hardwick, Cammell and Clough.

Yet it did not seem like that at the time. Even to Robson. "When I went to see them I was really thinking that I probably would not sign," he said this week. "I was looking for a bigger club than Middlesbrough appeared to be."

"But, after I had seen the situation the chairman [Steve Gibson] talked me into it. I knew there were some decent kids here and he told me how he would support me in the transfer market."

As a North-east lad himself, from County Durham, Robson could imagine the potential. "I knew that, given success, we would get good crowds." So it has proved. Today Middlesbrough's new Celtic Riverside stadium will host its seventh full house in seven Premiership matches when Liverpool are the visitors.

The Robson revolution began across town, at Ayresome Park last August. Robson had brought Clayton Blackmore with him from Old Trafford and spent £2.25m on a goalkeeper, Alan Miller, and two defenders, Neil Cox and Nigel Pearson.

The rebuilt team began with four straight wins before the impetus faltered as Robson, inevitably, spent long periods out of the side. Yet they never slipped below fourth and were third moving into February. Robson then added goals to his solid, but rarely inspiring side.

Uwe Fuchs came on loan from Germany to score nine times in 15 games then Jan Åge Fjørtoft joined for £1.3m. He scored three goals in the last four games as Middlesbrough claimed the only automatic promotion place.

Despite their manager's aura, their chairman's money, and a solid backbone, pre-season forecasts were grim. But, while promotion partners Bolton (19th) and Boro (19th) were ninth, four points off third place.

Their success has even surprised Robson. "I knew we had some decent players, even before we brought in Nick Barmby and Juninho, and I thought we would hold our own. But we started better than I thought we would."

"Mid-table would be a success this season. It would be a good foundation. If we win a Uefa Cup place that would be the icing on the cake. We have a lot of young players. It is a case of them realising the Premier League need hold no fears for them."

"I am enjoying management. It has gone well so far but I have got to keep my feet on the ground. It is a hell of a difference to playing. I miss playing, but not as much as people think. I do enjoy it but it is hard doing both."

"It is very difficult to get enough rest to play in the Premiership. It has helped that the team have played so well, especially Jamie Pollock and Robbie Mustoe in the middle. I have not had to play much."

As he showed in the recent Coca-Cola Cup win over Crystal Palace, when he produced the pass of the night to release Alan Moore to create the opening goal, he still has plenty to offer. There even was a time last year, when Terry Venables was searching for someone to fill the midfield anchor role, that a 91st international cap did not seem fanciful.

Such was Robson's range of talents during his prime that his passing was overshadowed by his thunderous tackling and goal-scoring runs into the box. After beginning at West Bromwich Albion, where he established his long-standing relationship with the treatment room, he spent his career at Manchester United, winning every domestic honour. He also played for England for 12 years.

Yet many people were surprised to discover, when Juninho signed, how venerated Robson was in Brazil. Juninho was clearly impressed by Robson's reputation (and his friendship with Dunga, the Brazilian captain), even if he is not quite as awed as Barmby, Robson's other major signing.

The signing encapsulated Robson's "can do" philosophy. "We underestimate ourselves in this country. If you fancy a top player in the world, go out and get him."

It also illustrated another Robson creed, the need to entertain as well as win. "He [Juninho] is a creator, he will excite fans. It is not just about results, fans have got to be entertained. I learned that at West Brom. Whenever I go back there fans talk to me about the team of Cyril Regis and Laurie Cunningham. We played some tremendous football under Ron Atkinson. I want fans to be talking of Juninho and Barmby."

It is an approach followed by both of Robson's main managerial influences, Atkinson and Alex Ferguson. "Alex was very good to me. In the last couple of years he let me go in with the coaches every morning to see what goes on, all the organisation."

Ferguson himself has been impressed with Robson's start. "He has adapted to management well," the Manchester United manager said this week. "It is a very different job to when I started. There are so many pitfalls now. You need a bit of luck and he had that in going to Middlesbrough at the right time, when there was a chairman who could plough money into it and allow him to buy big. He has been able to buy good players."

"His strengths as a manager are the same as they were as a player. He is single-minded, stubborn even, very determined. He has great concentration and is very thorough. I went to see him before the Coca-Cola Cup game with Crystal Palace and he was in his little room, surrounded by all his data on them."

The sight of the buccaneering Robson poring over statistics and scouting reports is hard to envisage. Not that he has changed that much. At Bisham Abbey earlier this month, during an England practice match, a familiar figure sprinted late into the box and rose to meet a cross only to head it wide. Curses filled the autumn air.

The England connection — he is one of Venables' coaches — is an enjoyable one. "It is a bit more relaxing. You want the team to win but the boss picks it and the pressure is on him. It is good to mix with the best footballers and work with people like Terry and Don Howe."

Robson is obviously a candidate to succeed Venables. He is also talked of as a potential successor to Ferguson, the speculation fuelled by Robson's continued residence in Cheshire (he commutes to Middlesbrough by plane).

"I am not looking to move house at the moment because my children are facing an important time for their schooling [they are approaching GCSE exams]. At the moment I am just looking to improve Middlesbrough."

There is a sense that Robson is destined for Old Trafford or Lancaster Gate, but he may be tempted to stay. He admits even he has been surprised at the enthusiasm on Teeside.

"This season has been above expectation. I did not expect to fill 30,000 seats. The players respond to the atmosphere, the fans are right behind the team. We are still growing — 15 months ago we finished ninth in the First Division."

Robson is making the most of his talents for Middlesbrough and England

Photograph: David Ashdown

Bryan Robson: making the most of his talents for Middlesbrough and England

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## Third Division clubs beware: the circus is coming to town

In supporting the team for 20 years from the town which has held such titles as "Murder and Crime per capita Kings of the UK" and "Where Scabs support Stags" (the latter from a Yorkshire Miners Newsletter, circa 1984), a suitable analogy of Mansfield Town's performances is that of a bob-sleigher's profession — "a very fine dividing line between karma and carnage".

In attempting to mix the players of Real Madrid in the Fifties and the Dutch style of the Seventies, over the past 18 months Andy King has introduced a wonderfully cavalier (or in this area maybe that should be a 3.0 Ford Capri) approach to gaining victories.

However, with the usual personnel fatter than Puskas, older looking than Di Stefano, and with Cruyff's Total Football maxim usually being interpreted as "Let's change from 4-4-2 to 0-0-10", we witness sharp shooting (12 goals in 24 hours last Christmas; 10 in the last two visits to Wigan) to suicidal defending because of our defence going on Abo-riginal-type walkabouts. This is not only the capitulations like those recently at Preston and at home to Bury, where ex-play-

### FAN'S EYE VIEW No 125 Mansfield Town GARY JOHN-BAPTISTE

ers, but still heroes, Wilkinson and Stant knocked in a hat-trick and four goals respectively on successive Saturdays, but an unmatched ability to snatch draws from the jaws of victory — against Scarborough in September we took the lead in the second minute of injury time and still didn't win.

The affair with a lesser light is not like a big club manic affliction where supporters call for more revolutions than the average Peruvian freedom fighter, but more of a Liz Taylor/Richard Burton romance where despite the drink, divorce and destruction accounting for 90 per cent of the existence, it's the once-in-a-blue-moon Anthony and Cleopatra spectacle that makes you gloat. "Can you remember when..."

1) In 1975 when the BBC cameras came to the fiefdom of Field Mill for the one and only time to show the fifth-round FA Cup tie against the then big boys of Carlisle who won, "by the

jammest goal ever in the history of Association Football, which was, by a conservative estimate, 75 yards offside" according to my brother. I, of course, believed him, saw nothing on TV later on to dispute this, and was even more upset when he appeared in the crowd during the highlights.

2) In the 1977-78 season we drew 3-3 with Spurs in the old Second Division on a pitch so bad that it had to be cleared of hippos and rice planters before the match could start (according to my brother again, a player actually drowned in the six-yard box during the game, a claim which has never been proved or refuted).

3) Johnny Miller (ex-Orient and Norwich, not ex-US Ryder Cup) took a penalty which ended with the ball hitting the crossbar and hallooing over the North Stand (for the unaware, a construction comparable with the away end at QPR).

4) May 1987 — Our big day out! Twenty thousand disciples (including my mother and sister, who had never seen them before or since — usually, I don't blame them) throwing about donkey jackets as the mighty yellow machine stuffed Bristol City 4-3 on penalties in the Sherpa Van thingy at Wembley after two hours of probably the most tedious pile of garbage ever played in that stadium.

Personally, forget your Wimbledons and Wyndomes, I prefer my team to be a small fish in a small pond, meeting and beating Leeds in the cups and Lincoln (occasionally) in the league. (Europe? Forget it. The closest we came was in being beaten by Workington in a Knockout). My one ambition is for us to play Liverpool away in the FA Cup, go one down and then blitz the Kop in the second half to go 5-1 up with two minutes to go, safe in the knowledge that with an X inscribed on my fixed-odds coupon, we may still scramble a draw before losing honourably in the replay.

Third Division clubs beware: the circus is coming to town. Conjurors or chimpanzees? It's anyone's guess.

### Team news

#### Chelsea v Tottenham

Gullit's calf muscle injury seems certain to keep him out, while Furlong (knee) has also joined the Chelsea sick list. Spencer, however, has recovered and could now replace Stein up front. Goldenwood looks certain to keep his place in Tottenham's defence, with Wilson still struggling with a groin injury.

#### Coventry v Wimbledon

Telfer is poised to return for struggling Coventry after recovering from an ankle injury and he is likely to replace assistant manager Strachan, who deputised for him. For Wimbledon, skipper Jones returns from a one-month ban, most likely to replace utility player Elms, with Talbot set to keep his midfield place as Southerton is still not fully recovered from flu. Republic of Ireland defender Cunningham (leg) is doubtful, while new centre-back, signing Pearce is set to start against one of his former clubs.

#### Everton v Sheffield Wednesday

Everton central defender Short is out with a groin strain and is replaced by Hinchcliffe. Otherwise, Everton expect to be unchanged. New signing Nicol, the 34-year-old former Scottish international defender, goes straight into the Wednesday side. Pemberton is out after injuring a foot at Arsenal in midweek, but former England defender Waller is confident of returning after flu ruled him out of the last two matches.

#### Also added to the squad are Williams and goalkeeper Woods, who returns from a loan spell at Reading.

#### Manchester City v Aston Villa

City have an unchanged side for the successive match as they attempt to continue their revival. Defender Edgill has recovered from a groin injury sustained in Wednesday's 3-0 victory over Wimbledon, which lifted them off the bottom of the table for the first time this season. Manager Little looks set to boost the side which beat Southampton on Monday as he completes 12 months in charge at Villa. Defender Briggs makes his 100th appearance.

#### Middlesbrough v Liverpool

Middlesbrough's leading scorer Hignett has failed to recover from an ankle injury, which means an unchanged team. England Under-21 international midfielder Pollock will play with a protective headband after having 10 stitches inserted in a wound following a clash of heads with Spurs' defender Austin in midweek. Collymore and Ruddock keep their places as Liverpool manager Evans also selects an unchanged team. Ruddock keeps out Scott in defence, while Collymore has another opportunity to impress because of an injury to Rush. Striker Harding could win a

#### place on the bench after a goal in the 4-1 midweek reserve game win over Barnsley.

#### Newcastle v Leeds

Former England Under-21 midfielder Clark, who has missed three matches with Achilles tendon trouble, is ready to start for Newcastle. Ferdinand, the Premiership's top scorer with 18 goals, has recovered from his ankle injury and Northern Ireland winger Gillespie (foot) is now fit. Brian Leeds' new £4.5m signing, has been cleared to make his debut. The Football Association yesterday received the Sweden's international clearance from Italy, so he is included in Howard Wilkinson's squad. Brian has played just seven competitive games this season and Wilkinson may be tempted to start him on the bench. Pemberton is again out through suspension and Phil Masinga is also unavailable with a groin injury.

#### Southampton v Bolton

Venison and Bennett face late fitness tests before Southampton name their side. New signing Venison has missed the last two matches with a back injury while winger Bennett sustained a thigh strain after coming on as a substitute in the defeat against Aston Villa. Bolton are hoping to have defender

Stubbs back after missing the last two games with Achilles problems. They will be without injured winger Lee but skipper Patterson, sent off against West Ham, will continue in a wide role as his suspension does not start until next weekend.

#### West Ham v QPR

West Ham manager Radcliffe looks prepared to keep Harkes at full-back for a third successive match, which means Greaves will miss out again. West Ham, with only one defeat in their last seven League games, aim to continue their impressive run by breaking their Queen's Park Rangers' debut — two months after signing for the London club — by beating them at Upton Park. Harkes has one game on his three-match ban still to serve.

#### TOMORROW

#### Arsenal v Blackburn

Blackburn, hoping to improve their dismal away record, will again be without injured centre-half Pearce but they will come back Norwegian Bohinen, hero of last week's 7-0 victory over his former club Nottingham Forest. He was ineligible for Wednesday's Champions League match and stands by to be recalled at the expense of Warhurst.

09/11/95











Independent

## MAESTRO

Don't be fooled by the smooth exterior. Sir Georg Solti is still the man they call the Screaming Skull

page 3

Photograph: Decca - Terry O'Neill

### INSIDE STORIES

In broadcasting, a single complaint can be devastating. Terry Christian was removed from Talk Radio UK because of a complaint from one listener (though at the time it was unkindly suggested this represented three quarters of his audience; the other listener was a half-wit)

Scrooge would be happiest spending Christmas in a country that is Islamic, Marxist or both. Libya is ideal. Cuba used to be second best, but Castro's reforms mean kitsch nativity scenes are on sale for the first time since he abolished Christmas 30 years ago

Whenever I kill a rat, I leave it out in a field, knowing that it will be gone by morning. If we want to dispose of meat that has gone off, it too goes out, and vanishes. From the faultless efficiency of the scavenger service, it is clear that sweepers come past every night

The Taklamakan desert in China is one of the last unexplored places on earth. Its name means 'once entered you never come out'; the locals call it the 'Desert of Death'. 'My wife felt very strongly that I wouldn't come back,' says the explorer Charles Blackmore

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## INSIDE STORIES

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Dickie enjoys a vibrant encounter with a New York-style loft developer  
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The rapper in the dock  
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**That was the week, that was**

The Beatles: the end of the long and winding road. Plus that interview  
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**Christmas books of the year**

The great and the good nominate their favourite books. Plus, 1995 in Cooking, Rock 'n' Roll, Humour, Sport, Belles Lettres and more starts on page 6

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There was a minor flurry of moral consternation a week or two ago, when a computer game company launched its new advertising campaign. "Go to Hell," read the poster's fiery letters, "You Deserve It."

One of those was tactlessly put up opposite a Bolton church, the vicar of which took a dim view of this infringement of his ecclesiastical franchise. The objection, I take it, was to the frivolity of the message, the implicit indifference to that infernal allusion. Or perhaps it was simple embarrassment at a notion which the Church of England doesn't like to talk about, much these days.

As it turned out, it's been a good month for Hell all round, though its recent ubiquity raises some interesting questions about our current moral vocabulary —

Hell occurs in three headlines: 'Hell is around the corner'... 'My booze hell'... and 'her TV sitcom hell'. It's been a good month for Hell all round. But for all sorts of reasons, Hell is not the place it was

the difficulty we now have in talking about extremes of good and evil.

The end of the Rosemary West trial, for example, provided the occasion for a rather old-fashioned deployment of the word, used to suggest an ultimate of perdition and punishment. Writing in the *Daily Mail*, Colin Wilson concluded that West was "guilty as hell — which is where she surely belongs". While the *Sun* splashed on its front page with the headline "Bury In Hell".

The *Sun* went to town with infernal references, with a feature inside called "Rose's Ride Into Hell", and a leader-page cartoon which showed the Devil sending a junior demon to tell Frederick West that his wife would be delayed in joining him. But it wasn't just the tabloids who resorted to satanic curses. The *Daily*

**Tom**

*Telegraph's* report included the headline "Vision of hell was laid bare by survivors", and this newspaper described the West's marriage as being "made in hell".

I don't imagine that any of the writers responsible for these lines really believe that there is such a place — the Tory right-winger's dream of the ultimate punitive sentence, an infinite sharp shock. They were just groping for a means to express the outer limits of human wickedness. But in doing so, they kept coming up against the depleted nature of the word, and not just because it is already a journalistic cliché. For all sorts of reasons, Hell is not the place it was.

You can get a sense of its broad decay as a threat by

looking at the most recent edition of *The Face* magazine, as good a register as any of the current or coming culture. Hell occurs in no less than three headlines: "Hell is around the corner", for an article about the increasing vogue for heroin; "My booze hell", for a light-hearted article about female drinking; and then a strapline about an actress escaping from "her TV sitcom hell".

In the first, the word has a serious, admonitory force — they mean Hell is hell. In the second, the reference is jocular, an ironic reference to tabloid style which has a give-me-a-break insouciance. In the third, it carries barely any weight at all — "hell" is just a pain in the butt, and not for eternity either.

It may be that Hell has been afflicted by the inverted moral language of youth culture, in which "wicked" and "bad" carry an opposite sense to their conventional meaning. These forms began with jazz music (the earliest instance of "bad" in an appropriate sense in the *OED* is from 1928), but they've attained much wider meaning recently, and in doing so they have, however slightly, blurred our ability to talk about ethics. If a judge were to describe the actions of a young ram-raider as "totally wicked", he would probably get a smirk of surprised approval from the dock.

And even Hell shows signs of straying across the formerly clear border between bad and good. Another recent advert, for a new type of rum, carries the slogan "Distilled in Hell" against a

background of leaping flames. This seems to me to be at odds with existing idiom, as seen in the "from Hell" construction, which can be attached to virtually any person (penny, lodger, mother-in-law) and which usually indicates disgust and contempt. If somebody said to me that they had just drunk the rum from Hell, it would summon up a picture of a retching figure trying to get the taste out of his mouth.

The advertisers presumably hope to appeal to an "I can take it" bravado in its consumers: perhaps their target market is the sort of people who eat vindaloes in order to demonstrate their masochism. But line superiority to pain. But they also inadvertently show how tepid the idea of eternal damnation has become. If Hell is cool, why should anyone worry about going there?

## The people's guide to the Turner Prize

It may be accused of being elitist and unrepresentative, but the Turner Prize, to be awarded on Tuesday, makes contemporary art a hot public debate once a year. So what did the public make of this year's contenders? Adrian Turpin canvassed opinion about Damien Hirst's 'Smartie' paintings and pickled cows, Mona Hatoum's cage installation, and film of her innards, Callum Innes's paint-stripped abstracts and Mark Wallinger's horse-racing films and paintings



'Mother and Child, Divided', by Damien Hirst

Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

### What the critics say

"It has to be Damien Hirst. No one else is in the same league. He is not showing his best work this year, but he has completely changed the face of art in Britain. He has the same initials as David Hockney and his influence has been just as great." Andrew Graham-Dixon, *Independent*

"I don't care tuppence about the Turner Prize. The only one of them who is really an artist is Callum Innes, and I hope he gets a little bit more than tuppence for his work." Tim Hilton, *Independent on Sunday*

"I'd like to see the earthy and poetic minimalism of Callum Innes win. His paintings are simply very beautiful. Damien Hirst should have won two years ago, but they missed the boat." John McEwen, *Sunday Telegraph*

"Damien Hirst. Because if a prize like the Turner is to retain its credibility, it should go to the one of the four who has made the biggest splash. Personally, I would have no objection to Callum Innes winning. His painting looked much better at the Tate than at the Jerwood Prize, and he'd be the first painter to win for 10 years, which would be no bad thing." William Packer, *Financial Times*

"I've a suspicion Mona Hatoum may sneak it, but Damien Hirst ought to win. I see him as the heir to Francis Bacon. Both artists share that very British obsession with insalubrious events that take place behind closed doors. He throws open a window on a festering bottled-up world." James Hall, *Guardian*

"Mona Hatoum's wire-mesh cage is very, very clever. If you look directly at it, there's just a bulb swaying slightly between the cages. But if you're standing up talking to people, you feel they are moving up and down because the shadows keep coming up and down as the bulb moves. I don't think much of the video of the inside of her body, but the crowds are very interested in it. There's often a massive queue to go in there, just as much as to walk through Damien Hirst's cow. I think she stands a very good chance of upsetting the apple-cart and winning." — John Kirk, 50, Tate gallery supervisor

"I've admired Damien Hirst for a long time, but I'd like Mark Wallinger to win. The Turner prize has become something of a statement for this country to make, so I think that someone who is engaging with British politics and commenting on British life needs to be brought to light. Wallinger has the bizarre Royal Family tradition of parading around Ascot up there on four TV screens and is actually getting people to think about it." — Clare Cowie, 23, student

"Who do I want to win? I don't think I can differentiate between any of them. I just find myself quite confused about the whole thing. I

go to art exhibitions a lot, but this didn't touch me at all. I really couldn't pick a winner, I feel so numb. What will stick in my mind is the feeling of wanting to be sick with the cow, and not being able to walk through the middle of it." — Sarah Greene, 27, social worker

"It's probably my age, but I'd rather see live cows in the countryside than dead ones here. Like the film of the woman's insides, the cows are interesting but they don't seem to me to be art. It's the same with the man on the explanatory video at the beginning (Damien Hirst) with the spinning discs that hurt paint. It's great, but he's got children doing it. The children's paintings look just as good as his. It's fun and I'd love to have a go at it. But with art you expect to think 'Gosh, I couldn't do that'. With the spinning discs, I think I probably could." — Valerie Dickinson, 52, primary school classroom assistant

"I love the simple approach the four exhibitors have taken. They're all dramatic. I particularly like Mona Hatoum's locker-room cages. The way that she's put them together and the illuminations on the wall are fantastic. I like the fact people have to walk around the outside of them. For me, the whole point is that you'd like to be inside them but you're

not allowed to be. It's interesting also that her little video capsule allows you to go in, but a lot of people just stand outside and watch the film of her insides. And it would be wonderful to come here alone and just sit inside those cages contemplating who you are." — Zak Cook, 23, management consultant

"Mark Wallinger's four videos of Royal Ascot shown together but taken in different years was very funny, because it's clearly the same every year. Maybe it's a one-gag idea, but I'd never thought of it. I've watched events like the Cup Final at Wembley several times, and I suppose if you analysed them too, you'd find the same thing year after year." — David Galinsky, health and safety advisor, 32

"Going round the Turner Prize exhibition is a little like being shouted at. Wallinger's Ascot video and Hatoum's nether regions and, of course, the cows, demand attention. But they demand it in the same way small children do: never mind the sense, who can talk loud-est? So I think you have to respect, and perhaps even feel a bit sorry for, Callum Innes. You could say his paintings are conceptual art like the others — the way he covers the canvases with paint, then removes it

with white spirit. But he seems to have more technical accomplishment than some of the others." — Giles Reid, 29, publisher

"Having seen endoscopy in the flesh, Mona Hatoum's video of her insides is disappointing. The image recreation isn't as good as you can get. The noises are excellent, though. Very frightening. It's very invasive because you see the camera going right from the outside of the skin, which is something that as a doctor you never normally would. I think Damien Hirst should win, though. The cows are excellent. They look really beautiful." — Helen Holt, 24, doctor

"Mona Hatoum's wire baskets are lovely, but you can find that kind of effect in everyday life — light coming through the window, the sun moving around. You don't have to be in an art gallery. From

a painterly point of view, I'd like Innes to win. The colours are so fresh, and they really make people look closely. But perhaps that's just me being a bit of a traditionalist." — David Glover, 46, designer

I'm probably horribly old-fashioned, but I like the very delicate paintings by Callum Innes. That's who I'd award the prize to. There is a serenity about them, which there certainly isn't in a lot of the other things. The dead cows didn't hold any horror for me because of my farming background. What struck me was that, in a piece called *Mother and Child*, the cow hadn't actually got any udders. I don't know if that's just because you can't preserve that very well." — Christine Ward, 52, teacher

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**'QUEUE, BEG, DO ANYTHING TO GET IN'**

SUNDAY TIMES

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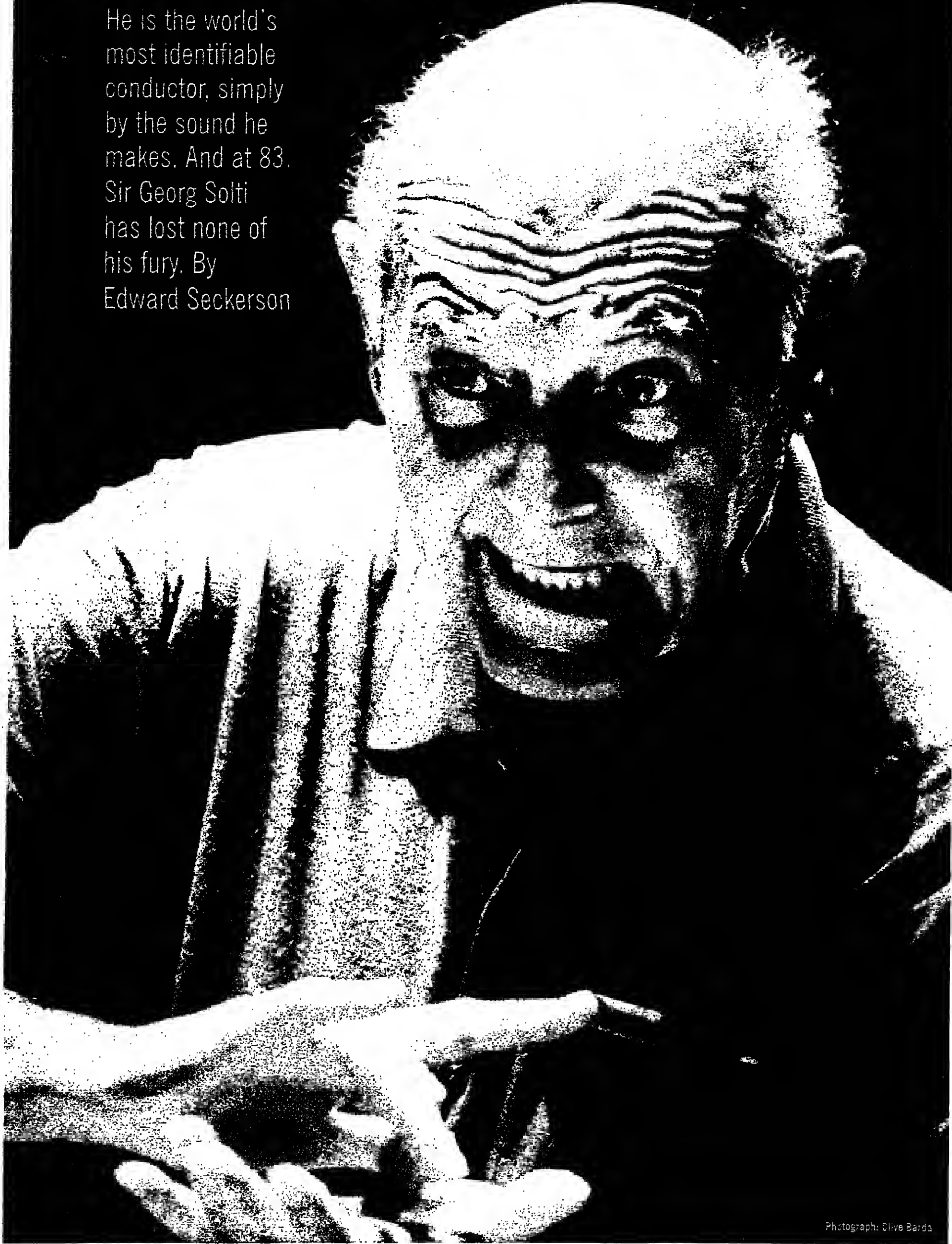
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# Attack! Attack!

He is the world's most identifiable conductor, simply by the sound he makes. And at 83, Sir Georg Solti has lost none of his fury. By Edward Seckerson



Photograph: Clive Barba

The music is familiar – your favourite Brahms symphony, perhaps. You've no idea who's conducting, but the style is indomitable: precision, highly articulate, incisive, decisive; athletic strings, lean, hungry brass cleaving through superb textures. It's too recent to be a Toscanini recording, though the manner of the delivery might suggest a kindred spirit. Who then? You don't have to be a musicologist to hazard a guess. No living conductor is more instantly identifiable from the sound he makes.

Ask Sir Georg Solti about that sound, ask him about his musical priorities, and the words come back at you like ack-ack fire: "Rhythm... rhythm... rhythm..." To hear him speak is to understand the source of that rhythm. Why, even the thick, heavily accented (in every sense of the word) short-hand English seems expressly designed to strip away superfluities. He speaks as he conducts, he conducts as he speaks – emphatically, explosively. But with that comes a certain reluctance to yield. He has been described as displaying a constitutional resistance to *legato* – to long, shapely, embraceable lines. You hear what you see. Almost as distinctive as the intimidating bald head (or "screaming skull", as less appreciative of his orchestral personnel once dubbed it) is his strenuous beat, or the "Solti nudge", as it's become known. The phrase "all power to his elbow" might have been coined especially for him. And yet this ferocious, highly motivated energy is infectious, and there can be no doubt as to the man's unbending dedication. Even those who love to hate him respect him. "I can only do music one way," he says. "My way. Take it or leave it."

The public at large, by and large, have taken it. His career has been one long ascent. He is a particularly fine specimen – perhaps the last – of that dying breed called *Maestro* (note the upper-case "M"). You wouldn't dream of calling him anything else. The Hungarian-born Maestro is 83 now, and no one's counting. Fit and active, a full diary into the millennium – he'd not have it any other way. He is perennially rechargeable.

The parallel with Toscanini is an interesting one, stylistically and historically. In 1935, aged 23, Solti went to Salzburg, where a timely flu epidemic landed him a job as répétiteur on the legendary Italian conductor's *Magic Flute*. "I can do that," he thought to himself. "I can follow anyone's beat – perhaps even yours!" At the end of the first rehearsal, the great man threw him an appreciative "Bene". One word, but inasmuch as one word almost constitutes a conversation, he was on speaking terms with Toscanini.

At that time, of course, the twin polarities of the conductor's art were very much exemplified in the personages of Toscanini and Furtwängler – the undisputed superstars and arch-rivals of the day. For the young Solti, Toscanini's fire, his ruthless, cut-and-dried precision, was most appealing. "Architecture, architecture... very strict, formal..." Not an ounce of spare flesh anywhere. That's the way he wanted to make music. And would, Furtwängler was, by contrast, the freest of spirits, wayward, even wilful for those, like Solti, who at the time failed to appreciate that this "freedom" of his was organic.

Solti was singularly unimpressed by a Furtwängler performance of Beethoven's Ninth he heard at the 1937 Salzburg Festival. But later, after the war, when he took over the Munich Opera, he heard Furtwängler conduct Tchaikovsky's *Patriotic* symphony, and his ears were opened. "I was ready for him. I understood now this 'inner freedom'. That was a revelation to me... From then on, I suppose I myself was looking for a kind of synthesis of the Toscanini and Furtwängler styles – but with a third element, I hope: ME!" With the emphasis on the "me".

It is ironic that Solti should have seen the light over Furtwängler at a time when he had every reason to despise him. As a Jew, it must have been hard for him to separate Furtwängler, the musician, from Furtwängler, the man who played straight into the hands of Nazi dictators. Or was it? "I am quite sure Furtwängler did not realise the full extent, the full horror, of what was happening. He was a musician before all else, and every time he tried to break away, Goebbels would raise up the threat of Karajan, and he would come back. He was a weak man. He was not political at all."

Unlike Solti. Art and politics aren't just inseparable to him, they're interchangeable. Don't get him started on the issues of the day (at least, not when you've only a precious 30 to 40 minutes of allotted interview time). And if you do, don't expect diplomacy. "What in God's name do the French think they are playing at with this nuclear testing thing... You know what it is – nationalism, nationalism... Why are we so afraid of European unity? I'm off to Paris tomorrow, they'll probably throw me out, but I DON'T CARE..."

"Look, my dear" – and there's a sudden switch here from polemic to fatherly advice – "politics form your life, and if you don't take care, they will form you... You must speak out. It was bad enough in my youth in Hungary that we shut up. No more... NO MORE," he repeats, just in case I missed it the first time. The old fires still burn with a zeal and, yes, a charm that is irresistible. The bark is worse than the bite. Though if you do plan to broach the subject of period instruments (try him on "authentic" Berlioz), it's probably just as well to take cover.

But does the music-making show any signs of mellowing? Have his priorities shifted at all? "That's for others to say," he insists, knowing full well, I suspect, what the response would be. "All I know is that I continue to follow my heart. And changes of heart are all part of that process. Sitting at home in St John's Wood, the maestro shows me his newest scores, custom-made in a specially enlarged format. "My eyesight is not so good now, and I cannot wear spectacles when I conduct... Please, look, see, brand-new, not a marking on them. Each one is like a new beginning for me. Everything I do now – and some of it I have not touched for 10 years or more – I re-start, I re-study. This summer *Die Meistersinger* was a great joy for me. Just to take a new score and sit at the piano from scratch. Just to rediscover this wonderful piece from the first C major chord onwards..."

To begin again. Sir Georg's secret, the secret of his eternal youthfulness. Can it really be that simple? He makes his way over to the piano. He has something to say, only he can play it more eloquently than he can say it. And he plays it with feeling – a short, benevolent motif associated in the opera with the character of the goldsmith Pogner. His whole countenance softens: "One day, about three years ago, I heard this moment on the radio, and it brought tears to my eyes. And suddenly I knew that *Meistersinger* must be a Wagner *Così fan tutte*. I never liked my old recording – too heavy, too bombastic,

and the cast was not right... I knew that in Chicago, with my orchestra, who understand me, who know me and trust me, that I could achieve a chamber music Wagner... No fights, they would just do for me what I wanted. Is he difficult to please? "Ja-ua..." – and the long "a" says it all. "Because I like good music. Either good or nothing. I know what I want. And I know what is wrong immediately. In recording, of course, this is not just helpful, it is essential..."

It was, of course, through recording that the world came to know and admire Solti. You could go so far as to say that he was the record industry's first classical superstar, winner of more Grammy awards (31 in all) than any other recording artist – more than Frank Sinatra, more than Madonna. He made his first record for Decca in 1947 (a Haydn symphony with the London Philharmonic) and fully intends to celebrate his golden anniversary with them in 1997.

Together, he and the Decca producer John Culshaw and his team were a revolution. Together, they changed the way opera was heard on record. He remembers Culshaw coming to him with the EMI/Furtwängler recording of *Tristan and Isolde* and saying, "Listen, the voices are far too dominant, we have to bring the orchestra more into the picture." And they did. Rather too enthusiastically at first, Solti believes. "Even Birgit Nilsson was fighting to be heard... and if you couldn't hear her, you couldn't hear anybody!" Even so, their realisation of Wagner's *Ring* – the first integral recording of it (begun, astonishingly, in

1958) – was, and remains, a landmark event, distinguished by some of the most thrilling orchestral sounds ever committed to disc.

Solti is characteristically unsentimental in recalling its long and arduous gestation. He and the Vienna Philharmonic had their differences. "They hated me at the time. Because I was a critic, and they were not used to that. They loved to play in this schmoopy Viennese way – very beautiful, what a sound – but here was this young man insisting, insisting all the time... rhythm, articulation, attack. It took years, but they came to respect me for my conviction. But you know, a good orchestra will always give a conductor what he wants... Actually, the Vienna Philharmonic came to like my way." My way. Will that be Solti's epitaph? The political incorrectness of it is as refreshing as it is breathtaking. Solti says what other conductors only think.

But then, how many other conductors began their musical education volunteering to play Bela Bartok one of his (Bartok's) own pieces? Let's rewind here to 1926, Solti was a precocious 14-year-old studying at the Budapest Liszt Academy. His regular piano-teacher had fallen ill and for six weeks he was assigned to Bartok's class. Strange to relate, Bartok never taught composition. He didn't believe it could be taught. So it was just piano. "Can you imagine," says Solti, "if I tell you that tomorrow you will interview Buddha... Well, that's how frightened I was." But not so frightened that he didn't offer the great man his *Allegro Barbaro* on their very first

meeting. Bartok declined the offer ("Of course he did. It was a stupid schoolboy thing to do!"), suggesting instead Debussy's *Prelude*. There followed Bach, lots of Bach, which Bartok loved ("Naturally – counterpoint is the major element in his music"), and Scarlatti and Mozart, Schumann rather than Schubert, and Liszt rather than Chopin ("Not really his kind of romanticism").

"Sometimes he played – he was a wonderful pianist – I remember his old-fashioned high-finger position. But mostly he just listened, and asked us to listen – to him, but most of all to ourselves. He spoke very little, and you wouldn't believe that a man who was such a volcano in his music spoke so quietly. He had unforgettable big eyes which looked at one in the most piercing way. There was a sadness in them, in him. He came into this world and far too quickly disappeared from it, leaving very little personal memory – very few letters – a sort of meteor who passed by..."

Blazing a trail of masterpieces. A mighty handful of them feature this week in Solti's three-concert tribute to his compatriot and teacher on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his death. Solti and Bartok – as ever, it's a highly combustible prospect. Almost as combustible as the music itself, a kind of Molotov cocktail of the classical and the primitive. Solti's choice of works (and it's a personal one) leads with the *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta* – in his opinion, Bartok's greatest orchestral piece (the piece that every spooky movie score loves

to emulate). And there's a corker of a programme on Thursday in which the "best" of the Piano Concertos – the Second (with Andras Schiff) – is shoulder to shoulder with Bartok's operatic masterpiece, *Bluebeard's Castle*. Solti is more than happy to lay out that wonderful score in the concert hall rather than the opera house. It is, he rightly says, a psychological drama, theatre of the imagination. Close your eyes, he says: "The text is so beautiful... Hungarian is such a mysterious, *cantabile* language."

(Some composers, like Bartok, Mozart, Bach (yes, Bach), have been "constant" in Solti's life and career. Others have, in his words, been "up and down, up and down". Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* crept up on him only this year – "quite out of the blue, a revelation... never spoke to me before... Now I must do it as soon as possible." Nielsen has been another late arrival. He waits anxiously in the wings. And Janáček? What a memorable meeting of temperaments that would be: "Yes, my dear. I know, big omission. But I didn't give up yet. I am always learning new things. I never stop. Because, as a musician, as a conductor, you must never lose your curiosity. Very important. As long as you are curious, you will go forward. But in this business, you need at least three lives..." W? by my reckoning, leaves Sir Georg with another six.

Solti Celebrates Bartok with the 1<sup>st</sup>: 7.30pm tomorrow, Thursday and Sunday next, at the Barbican, London EC2 (0171-638 8891)



## TELEVISION

## Dressing for Breakfast (C4)

The sitcom discovers 'Cosmo'-style female smut. By Jasper Rees

While Channel 4 is a frenetic importer of reliable American comedy, efforts to design home-grown models have been mixed. *Drop the Dead Donkey* was an unalloyed triumph, but *Paris* and *Father Ted*, two cheerful celebrations of stereotype, missed more frequently than they hit. It's never fair to judge a sitcom on its first outing, because introductions are always awkward when one of those shaking hands is so eager to impress. The best you can usually say of any new sitcom is "nice to meet you".

You can say it of *Dressing for Breakfast*, that rare sitcom on a mission to redraw the boundaries that mark out what you can laugh at. This agenda sounds grander than it is, as it's actually no more than a girlie version of *Men Behaving Badly*, another comedy that's frank about sexual motive. But where women are concerned these are uncharted waters – or they are in television comedy. The crocheted-your-own-orgasm ethic has kept *Cosmopolitan* in business for years, whereas female smut is as new to sitcom as its male equivalent is old.

The freshness of *Dressing for Breakfast* combines nicely with a vague whiff of threat. You'd never find Martin Clunes seeing the funny side of vaginal cystitis, or even knowing that there's an unfunny side. In episode one there was a witty and unprecedentedly detailed sequence of gags about oral sex, which ordinary male viewers might find too belittling to laugh at in comfort. It takes a woman scriptwriter, and preferably one, like Stephanie Colman, without previous sitcom experience, to get a shower of cunnilingus jokes past the blue pencil.

The credit sequence depicts our two girls slandering over gorgeous males who turn out, for whatever reason, to be unavailable. Like the dumb-show in *Hankel*, the gist of the show is niftily established before a word has been spoken: girls gagging for it. These aren't a novelty on television: in fiction there's Pauline Colman, played by a man; in reality there's Margi Clarke, who merely looks like one. Beattie Edney's Louise is more believable than either. That's not to say that she actually is believable: though she's often found in rather stern or stinging roles, a casting agent could easily have come up with someone less patently attractive.

The strength of the series is likely to rest on Louise's relationship, not with her best pal Carla, sassily played by Holly Aird, but with her mother Liz. Colman has taken the *ABFab* template of the nagging, faddish mother and buffed her up into a sexual success story. Charlotte Cornwell as Liz hooks the best lines, and they're all aimed at her daughter: "You're feeling very unheard at the moment." Or, "Have you thought of doing one of Holly's anger workshops?"

There's also some pretty low stuff. Last night Louise was paired with a finely drawn gargoyle from America, and Liz, off on honeymoon, gives him her daughter's number "should anything arise". But the joke is only inserted so the script can then sneer at it. In *Rude Foodspeak*, this is known as smearing your cake all over succulent flesh and gingerly licking it up.

## OPERA 'Falstaff', Mayfair Suite, Birmingham

City of Birmingham Touring Opera delight with a welcome revival of Verdi's masterpiece. By Jan Smaczny



Nuala Willis as Mistress Quickly and Keith Latham as Falstaff: two members of a magnificent cast

Photograph: Richard H Smith

City of Birmingham Touring Opera's revival of *Falstaff* provides a welcome opportunity to see how far this still relatively young company has come in eight years, both artistically and physically. Graham Vick's founding production was a brave start. Opera that takes performers to the limits of wit and subtlety is daring, and this *Falstaff* worked, on the whole, very successfully. In eight years, CBTO has developed extraordinary artistic confidence over a handful of remarkable productions. The company also seems happily settled into the Mayfair Suite in the heart of the city. When CBTO arrived here with *Les Boréades* three years ago, their surroundings were dismal and the acoustics unhelpful; now, the rougher aspects of the Suite have been cheerfully domesticated and it works well both visually and acoustically.

Best of all is the completeness of this project. Every aspect of *Falstaff* has been integrated, skilfully harnessing the abundant humour in Verdi's masterpiece. No detail is overlooked. Graham Vick's revived production flows as deftly as the score itself, with each move almost choreographically linked to the music. Paul Brown's set, a precipitous rake with trap-doors, has endless potential for humour, as do the costumes – from blowsy matrons to the Breughel peasant outfits worn by Bardolph and Pistol. Here was an apotheosis of the codpiece.

Musical values were also strong. It's not unreasonable to expect tight ensemble playing from a small band placed close to the stage, and this, with odd exceptions, was what we got. Better still was the playing. Individual instruments emerged from the fabric of

Jonathan Dove's new orchestration with both colour and character commensurate with the activities on stage.

Stephen Rooke's Fenton and Deborah Myer's Nanetta made a delightful pair of young lovers, while their elders were realised with wicked attention to detail by Kate Flowers (Mrs Ford) and Marie Walshe (Meg Page). Pistol (David Marsh) and Bardolph (Andrew Forbes Lane) were suitably decadent, but more remarkable was Nuala Willis's Mistress Quickly, whose comic timing and astonishing bottom range were deployed to devastating effect. Best of all, in this directionless age, was the clarity with which all of the cast delivered Amanda Holden's consistently funny and apposite translation.

Despite rampant excellence from all quarters, Keith Latham's Falstaff still shone. Played with cherubic verve, his reading of the role achieved the remarkable feat of being simultaneously appealing and appalling. There might have been a touch more of the ageing rake in his performance, but a natural feeling for comic interaction and a magnificently resonant vocal presence placed him centre-stage, even when he was buried in the linen basket. Stage-hogging is forgivable in any Falstaff, yet this tendency never surfaced in Latham's performance. However thrilling the individual performances are – and some of them are nearly edible – the greatest quality of this production is the way the ensemble works together, almost like clockwork. It will bring joy wherever it lands on this substantial tour.

To 1 Dec. Booking 0121-605 6666. Then touring

## THEATRE

## All's Well That Ends Well

An engrossingly intelligent production of an old favourite. By Paul Taylor

At the end of *As You Like It*, the cynical Jacques speculates confidently about the married lives that lie in store for the various couples on stage, even waspishly informing Touchstone and slutish Audrey that their "loving voyage" is but for two months virtually. You can't help wondering how he would rate the more complexly dubious prospects of Bertram and Helena at the awkward conclusion of *All's Well That Ends Well*. Casting doubt over the proverbial wisdom of its title, the play shows how a resourceful, determined heroine manages to win back the immature, callous young nobleman who had deserted her on their wedding night. She can only achieve this, however, by dint of a crafty bed trick that humiliates her and throws an even worse light on her spouse's sordid defects of character. Just how joyful, then, is the play's "happy" ending?

Patrick Sandford's engrossingly intelligent production is alert to all the caveats that cluster round this particular comic resolution, but it also suggests grounds for a tentative hopefulness. Since it reprieves him from the charge of having murdered her, Paul Barnhill's callow, wriggling Bertram is visibly winced with relief at the last-minute reappearance of his now-pregnant wife, and can hardly restrain his face from breaking into unseemly smiles. More promising, though, is the gauche affectionate way he pats Helena's bump and puts his ear to it with an experimental fatherly pride. Maybe paternity, however bizarrely arrived at, will encourage him to do some belated growing up.

With large soulful eyes and an air of pained intensity, Alexandra Mathie's Helena communicates perfectly the virtuous ardour and obsessive love of this single-minded heroine, while not disguising a due distress at the degrading procedures to which she must resort to achieve her objective. Around her, there's a fine cast, with Zena Walker's sly, tolerantly wise old Countess visibly mortified and aged by her son's derelictions, and Granville Saxton hinging a helpful touch of Windsor Davis in *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* to his vivid portrayal of the braggart Parolles as a blustering military phoney.

The production could afford to impart a stronger sense of Bertram's emotional dependence on this character, whose exposure as an eagerly co-operative traitor, in the very well-played mock-ambush scene, removes a major obstacle to Bertram's appreciation of Helena's preferable qualities. What the staging does help you see, though, is the uneasy equivalence between the way his fellow soldiers trick Parolles into a self-incriminating trap, and the deceitful stratagem by which Helena lures Bertram back into her arms.

Sandford's production actually offers an upstage glimpse of the heroine waiting as an undercover substitute in Diana's bed, while downstage the ensnared Parolles dangles over the proceedings in a net. The visual juxtaposition invites you to draw a parallel, and brings into sharp relief the question of ends and means that, throughout, unsettles this thought-provoking problem comedy.

Nuffield Theatre, Southampton to 2 Dec. Booking 01703 671771



THE WEEK IN REVIEW  
David Benedict

THE OPERA  
MATHIS DER MALER

## overview

Peter Sellars directs a new production of Hindemith's opera about the role of the artist in society. Alan Tirus sings the title role and Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts.

## critical view

Edward Savoyan cheered "an extraordinary evening. You know when something special is happening in the theatre." "Rarely have I felt so moved, so shaken, so elated," declared the *Independent on Sunday*. "A musical triumph," but "Hindemith's vision is greatly diminished by Sellars's production," wailed the *Times*. "We don't want him again," agreed the *Evening Standard*.

## on view

At the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (0171-304 4111) 28 Nov, 1, 6 Dec.

## our view

The surtitles are a little trendy. Read the synopsis before you go to this evening of powerful music.

THE ALBUM  
THE BEATLES

Natalie Cole sang with her dead dad on "Unforgettable". The Fab, er, Three on "Free as a Bird" have added to a John Lennon vocal track to lead off the first part of their six-CD *Anthology*.

Andy Gill loathed the single. "The overall effect is of a dirge. John would probably have hated it" and the whole "strangely half-cooked enterprise." "It was never like this in the golden years," observed the *Financial Times*. "EMI is charging full price even though the majority of the tracks are of scant interest to anyone but obsessives," remarked *The Guardian*.

*Anthology 1* (Apple CDcpap 727). The six-part TV documentary begins tomorrow at 8pm on ITV.

Could it be they want to be No.1 at Christmas? It's all rather reminiscent of Dora Bryan's 1963 single 'All I Want for Christmas is a Beatle'.

THE INTERVIEW  
PRINCESS DIANA

For those of you who have been asleep for a hundred years and have only just been kissed, HRH The Princess of Wales gave a frank interview to Martin Bashir on BBC's *Panorama*.

Thomas Surliffe remained immune to a "performance of deadly humility, delivered with a deceptive inoffensiveness." "She did herself far more good than her husband did with his longer and infinitely more boring programme," said the *Financial Times*. "A truly fantastic historic performance," enthused the *Mirror*. "Stitched him like a kipper," concluded *The Guardian*.

You mean you missed it? The BBC has "not abandoned plans" to market the video.

Probably the most hyped programme in the history of TV. Whether you thought her barking or a heroine it was gripping telly.

THE FILM  
GOLDENEYE

Bond is back and the name's Brosnan. Pierce Brosnan, Martin Campbell directs the first 007 adventure for six years, also starring Sean Bean, Judi Dench and Samantha Bond (no relation).

Adam Mars-Jones approved of Brosnan and found the film "old-fashioned but undeniably exhilarating." "The Bond franchise is reloaded to make a killing," agreed the *Telegraph*. "Competent," mused *Premiere*. "Move over Bruce and Arnie... sit back and enjoy," said *Time Out*. "Bond is back at his best," decided the *Evening Standard*.

On general release.

The ever-excellent Judi Dench gives Bond a verbal dressing-down as a sexist, misogynist dinosaur, but the film updates the formula.



DICKIE FANTASTIC  
on the schmoose

Vibrancy.  
There's a lot  
of it about

"You must admit," says the man from the 'York Central' New York-style loft developers, "there is a vibrancy here tonight. A vibrancy that you don't find at most parties patronised by what we call the 'in crowd'. There is a vibrancy that I feel, and it reflects the vibrancy of loft living here at York Central."

He pauses, furrows his brow, and looks down at my notepad.

"Would you," I suggest, "like to say 'vibrancy' one more time?"

"Oh dear," replies the man. "I'm new to this. Did I say 'vibrancy' too often?" And during the remainder of the evening,

he sidles up to me a few times – slightly nervously – and shouts over the vibrant jazz band in the corner: "When you come to write your article, if it looks as if I've said 'vibrancy' too much, if it seems in any way... annoying... will you take out a couple of them?"

"Okay," I agree. And I do. He said 'vibrancy' at least three more times, but I took them out.

The York Central developers have taken a big gamble tonight launching their architecturally stunning (albeit rather Eighties) penthouse loft development in Kings Cross with a glamorous showbiz party full of "style

gurus", famous hairdressers, wildly well-dressed architects and the like. The invitation itself was so aesthetically vibrant it could have been a ticket to the MTV party. The plethora of blue spotlights lighting up the building mingle nervously with the somewhat less vibrant red lights that permeate the rest of the Kings Cross region.

Obstreperous couples in shiny black PVC trousers and David Bowie haircuts yell clever and deep observations at each other over smoked salmon canapes and cranberry juice.

"Minimalist," they yell, "Urban alienation. The allure of the

industrial landscape." And so on. "Jesus." I hear one woman mutter to her partner. "I'm not going to live here. This is what our neighbours will be like. I won't be able to go to the shops without having to discuss Richard bloody Rogers for hours in the corridor."

Outside, a bunch of dodgy hookers and crack addicts huddle in the shadows, eyeing us with ill-disguised loathing as we wander inwards like a military coup by the liberal bourgeoisie. When you attempt en masse to transform a well-established inner-city ghetto into the set of a Mickey Rourke movie, Philippe Starck armchairs and Shiro Kura-

mata lighting become more than luxuries. They become weaponry. Tonight's unspoken belief is that if enough Richard Sapper kitchenware gets installed, perhaps we cosmopolitans can marginalise the drunks and the crack addicts, sweep them up and dump them somewhere more fittingly concrete such as Dalston. That's the plan.

And believe me, there's nothing more off-putting than discussing Urban Alienation while some ragged alcoholic ex-construction manager clutching a batch of the *Big Issue* vociferously reminds you that not everybody survived the recession as suc-

cessfully as you did. Consequently, there is an intensity in the air tonight. Folk here aren't simply partying. They're regrouping and re-fortifying.

"I'm a little worried," says a man in a long fake fur coat "about all the homeless people and criminals. Won't they break in?"

"Of course not," replies the man from York Central. "Security will be formidable." He pauses. "And, of course, our architects will favour a minimalist interior design, so even if they do break in, there won't be much to steal." There is a long silence.

"Just joking," says the man, slightly nervous.

0171 201 1500





Between January and October of this year, 4,047 people complained to the ITC about ITV and Channel 4 programmes. 1,500 of them took exception to the screening of Martin Scorsese's film 'The Last Temptation of Christ' on C4, making it the most complained about programme of the year. The ITC's attention was drawn to the fact that all 1,500 letters had the same, incorrect postcode on them. The complaint in had been orchestrated by a religious magazine, which urged its readers to write, and then printed the address incorrectly.



Princess Diana's interview on 'Panorama' was watched by 21m Britons, the biggest audience of the year. Not a bad coup by Martin Bashir, that, since his programme's audience generally numbers no more than four million. We know this sort of thing thanks to an ingenious black box placed on the top of televisions in 54,000 homes across the country. From data received from that sample, extrapolations are made that are reckoned to be as accurate as any in the field of market research. Which is a bit like saying your car is reliable, as Skodas go.



On LWT's 'James Whale Show' last 18 August, the media-friendly Tory MP Jerry Hayes told a thin gag about a black mechanical toy cat. In October, the joke was deemed by the Independent Television Commission to be in breach of Section 1.4 (ii) of its programme code, the section dealing with offence in jokes of a racial nature. The programme's producers were advised that greater sensitivity in that area was expected in future, and Hayes was obliged to write a formal apology. The ITC moved into action because it received a complaint. From one viewer.

## So where were you on Monday night?

It's claimed 21m people watched 'Panorama' on Monday: but all we know for certain is that 20,000 did. Welcome to the curious world of broadcasting, where the push of a button on a little black box can launch a career, and a single complaint can end one. By Jim White

A radio talk show host of some national eminence began his career operating the phone-in on a local station between two and four in the morning: a beat known in the business as the graveyard shift. As he nattered on about this and that, he would occasionally glance at the computer screen on the studio table in front of him. On to this screen the telephonist would type the details of callers ringing the station, anxious to air their views, things like: "Line 8: Dave from Dagenham. Subject: Who do them geezers in Brussels think

they are?" Except that, no matter how many times he said "I know a lot of you are calling, but just be patient and we'll get through to you as soon as we can" the screen in front of him remained blank. Wondering whether his job entailed little more than extended therapy, talking to himself, he approached the station controller to ask for a breakdown of the listening figures for his show. And the station controller revealed that, at the last count, he had nearly 2,000 listeners. Astonished, he thought he'd like to know more about them, so that

he could tailor his effort more directly: how old they were, what sex they were. No problem, said his controller, flourishing a sheaf of statistics. Of the 1,980 listeners he had accrued, 1,980 were male, 1,980 were of social group D and 1,980 were aged between 18 and 25. "In other words," he recalled, "they'd asked a panel of people what they had been listening to, and one bloke had been listening to me. From that they had extrapolated the figures and reckoned that since he had, then 1,979 others had too."

On Monday night, according to official figures, 21m Britons watched the Princess of Wales shaft her husband on *Panorama*. A huge number, that: only Bet Gilroy's departure from Coronation Street has come close this year. From the experience of the talk show host, though, are we to assume that this might be a fantasy figure? According to the BBC's research department, the figures were arrived at like this: 54,000 households, selected to be representative of all social groups across the country, are equipped with a little black box which they place on top of their televisions. Plugged in to the aerial socket, this piece of kit also has direct access, via the telephone line, to a central data-gathering base in London, which records exactly what is being watched in each house.

Furthermore, on top of the box are a number of buttons. Every time a member of the household walks into the room to watch the television, they press their own individual button. The computer knows who is on the other end of which button and logs it, giving information on age, sex and social status of each viewer. To prevent the sample growing stale, box hold-

ers are changed every three or four months. Fifty-four thousand households is a huge sample in market research terms; it is more than 100 times the number of voters canvassed for a political opinion poll. Nonetheless, all that we can know for certain is that on Monday night about 20,000 households were plugged in to *Panorama*.

"Of course, ideally everyone would have a box," said a BBC stats spokesman, "but the technology simply does not exist to process that sort of rush of data. We feel that the sample we have provides as sophisticated a level of audience research as can be delivered for the budget." But surely there must be circumstances when the sample cannot deliver accurate data. What happens when they come across a programme, like our radio talk show host's, which has no one in the sample tuning in?

"We never give a zero rating," we simply say that programmes fall below a certain level," said the spokesman. "Sometimes overnight education programmes get very low scores, but that is because they have been videotaped and watched at more reasonable times. Information we can pick up on our video monitoring service. I have to say though that I have never come across a programme which no one in our sample saw." So someone watched *The Late Show* after all.

"Remember," he added, "the corporation has to feel confident in the information. This is not a PR exercise. Broadcasters need to know for their own purposes, to decide whether to commission another series of a programme."

This is the point. As hard as it may be to believe, broadcasters aim to provide the public with what it wants. In other media -

books, newspapers, even satellite television - there is a simple, brutal indicator which tells you whether you have judged the public mood accurately: the market. If your product is wanted, it sells. Broadcasters on radio and terrestrial television, however, have to rely on far more inexact sciences. And viewing figures are the least inexact of them.

LWT's *James Whale Show* was severely reprimanded by the Independent Television Commission for a joke made by the Tory MP Jerry Hayes, which was found offensive by one viewer (see panel above). This single intervention altered the future editorial content of the show. And it isn't just Jerry Hayes who has had his broadcasting career checked by complaint power. Terry Christian was removed altogether from the employ of Talk Radio UK after one listener complained about an item on his Sunday night show (though at the time, it was unkindly suggested this represented three quarters of his audience; the other listener was a half-wit).

According to James Conway of the ITC, every complaint his organisation receives is investigated. "We look at the nature of the complaint and see whether there should be any action taken," he said. "For instance, we received a complaint on Thursday from someone unhappy with the interview with Anne Marie West on ITV on Wednesday. Not because they thought the particular programme was offensive, but because they thought the whole West case was so distasteful it shouldn't be given air time. In that case we felt no action should be taken."

But in others, whole editorial direction can change from the smallest number of objections. And it is not just sex or violence,

people complain about the most unexpected things: a scene from *Mr Bean* which six viewers felt might encourage children to climb into tumble driers; a sketch from *Hale and Pace* which was thought by five people to be offensive to Catholics; or, at the other extreme, a scene from *London's Burning* which six viewers thought gave an inaccurate portrayal of paganism. Does this mean that, using the extrapolative techniques of other statistical gathering, 600 viewers were offended by the scene, but were too lazy to put pen to paper? "It's a reasonable rule of thumb that the more complaints you receive the more people were unhappy," said Mr Conway. "But not always."

Sometimes, as Mary Whitehouse's National Viewers and Listeners Association has learnt very well, a small number of complainers can make a vastly unrepresentative noise. If you are going to make a campaign complaint, however, make sure you don't give yourself away.

By far the biggest mail bag the ITC received this year was for the screening of Martin Scorsese's *Last Temptation of Christ* on Channel 4 (see panel above).

"We had a clue that someone was orchestrating that complaint," said Mr Conway, "because every single letter had the wrong post-code. Our address had been incorrectly printed in a magazine which suggested that if enough of its readers wrote in to us, the screening could be stopped. Of course, just because a pressure group orchestrates a complaint doesn't negate it. But you have to be careful in assuming it is a representative sample of viewers."

Sometimes the ITC acts without any complaints from viewers, as in the case of *This Morning* with *Richard and Judy* which, in

August, was fined £500,000 for product placement in a competition. And more recently action was taken on the over-explicit nature of programming on a satellite sex channel.

"Given the nature of the audience tuning in to that programming," said Mr Conway, "we were unlikely to receive a complaint if it was too explicit." There is, however, a group of people even smaller and even more powerful than the black box owners and the complainers determining what is shown on television: the television critics.

"The problem is," said one leading documentary producer, "senior commissioning editors don't watch television. They rely entirely on the buzz a programme generates to assess its worth. And since the only indicator of buzz they know is the critics, fantastic weight is given to their opinions."

This is, so insiders claim, one of the main reasons why British sitcoms are so poor. Sitcoms take time to develop, for character to emerge, for audiences to become familiar with their rhythm: the first series of *Blackadder* was, after all, a considerably less funny beast than the last. But critics, forced to review the first episode, are wont to find them unamusing. This, coupled with unspectacular viewing figures, mean they are generally killed off before a second or third series can be commissioned.

"Critics ought to be careful before slagging off a programme," said the anonymous source, "you may be preventing the programme maker from working again."

And, of course, from putting themselves at the mercy of little black boxes and loose viewers armed with pen, paper and a grievance.

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## The Dogg has his day in court

Edward Helmore reports from New York on the opening of rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg's trial for murder

The murder case against the rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg in Los Angeles is echoing loudly the trial of the last famous and wealthy black defendant to see the inside of the Central Criminal Court House.

As if by rote, Snoop Dogg's defence, led by Johnnie L. Cochran, has targeted the LAPD for abusive and sloppy investigation. Investigators have admitted to losing the shell casings from the murder weapon and the victim's bloody clothing. The defence contends that the police destroyed evidence, prosecutors maintain that what was lost is insignificant. "Want me to say those famous words?" Cochran asked reporters last month, alluding to his closing arguments to the OJ Simpson jury. "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit."

Snoop Dogg, aka Calvin Broadus, is charged with the murder of Philip Woldemariam in Los Angeles on August 25, 1993. Prosecutors allege that Dogg ordered his bodyguard and co-defendant, McKinley Lee, to shoot

Woldemariam from a black jeep driven and owned by the rap star in a gang-related drive-by murder.

Law enforcement sources say that Woldemariam, 20, and Dogg, 24, had connections with different street gangs. The victim, a member of the By Yerself Hustlers, apparently resented Dogg, listed as a member of the Long Beach Insane Crips, for moving into his neighbourhood during the recording of his four-million-selling record, *Doggystyle*.

On the evening of the shooting, an argument erupted between the two in front of Dogg's apartment and a car chase ensued that ended with a fatal shot into Woldemariam's back. The defence contends that Lee shot Woldemariam in self-defence after he drew a gun on Dogg who is currently free on \$1m bail.

This week, after a month of pre-trial hearings and weeks of probing panelists about their attitudes toward the LAPD, the criminal justice system, OJ Simpson and rap



Doggystyle Photo: LFI

music, the sides agreed on members of what is described as an "OJ-neutral" jury.

One prospective juror was rejected after he opined that since the Simpson verdict, panelists should be subject to IQ tests. Another said that though she had listened to and read magazine articles on rap she "still hated it". Meanwhile Snoop Dogg, like Simpson, has been playing down his image as bad boy; he turns up to court each day in a smart blue suit and shows little emotion, perhaps because, given the reputation of the LAPD and Cochran's record for securing acquittals, he has little to fear.



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## Gilbert Adair

This year I found myself, gratifyingly, out of step with the literary establishment. I much enjoyed Umberto Eco's *The Island of the Day Before* (Secker), a scintillatingly written (or rather, employing a musical analogy, scintillatingly scored) narrative of whimsical erudition; as also Kazuo Ishiguro's magnificent, misunderstood *The Unconsoled* (Faber). My book of the year, though, is Milan Kundera's *Testaments Betrayed* (Faber), a collection of nine masterly essays on the condition and vocation of the artist. To revive a whiskey old chestnut of the Christmas books pages, "Not a day passes but I dip into it". Corny but true.

## Hugo Barnacle

Alan Isler's *The Prince of West End Avenue* (Cape) pictured a Jewish retirement home in Manhattan as a veritable Elsinore of backstabbing and remorse, and was wonderfully funny with it. Richard Ford's *Independence Day* (Harvill) was a check-list of middle-aged doubts and fears, but avoided either indulging or patronising its characters. Norman Mailer in *Oswald's Tale* (Little, Brown) reconstructed the short life of JFK's probable assassin with an insight that made the usual conspiracy theories look like so much cerebral Meccano.

## Malcolm Bradbury

The book trade has been miserable this year; the books have been good. I'm grateful to have had two major novels, Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh* (Cape) and Martin Amis's *The Information* (HarperCollins). The first is an especial pleasure, since here is a great and persecuted writer back to the top of his form; the second marks the transition of one of our most vivid creators of atmosphere into the fiction of middle-age. Kazuo Ishiguro took a risk in breaking free of the reticence and minimalism of his previous work. *The Unconsoled* (Faber) is a true act of writerly courage, as well as an important experimental novel.

## Gordon Burn

Almost everything I've read this year has had to do – sometimes unconsciously, often tangentially – with the events at 25 Cromwell Street in Gloucester. *House* by Rachel Whiteread (Phaidon) contains five essays, principally a typical tyro piece by Iain Sinclair. *The Body in Pain* by Elaine Scarry (Oxford) is a brilliant meditation on the vulnerability of the human body to physical and psychic assault. Andrew O'Hagan's strange, revered *The Missing* (Picador), part autobiography, part old-fashioned pavement-pounding, marks the

most auspicious debut by a British writer for some time. The fiction I've enjoyed most is *The Destiny of Nathalie X* (Sinclair-Stevenson), William Boyd's second collection of short stories, and *Sabbath's Theater* (Cape), Philip Roth's filthy masterpiece. My novel of the year is *Independence Day* (Harvill) by Richard Ford, the unexpectedly symphonic sequel to *The Sportsman* (1984), which is coming to be seen as the landmark American novel of its decade.

## Donald Cameron Watt

1995 brought a crop of books from 50th anniversaries. *VE Day and VJ Day*. The best were Richard Overy's succinct *Why the Allies Won the War* (Cape), David Reynolds's masterful and moving *Rich Relations: the American Occupation of Britain 1942-1945* (HarperCollins) and a brilliantly original study by Nicholas Cull, *Selling War: the British Campaign against American 'Neutrality' in World War II* (Oxford). Best of all, however, was Noel Annan's marvellously readable marriage of memoirs with research, *Changing Enemies* (HarperCollins). For light relief I turned to Jerry Pratchett's latest Disc-world fantasy *Maskerade* (Gollancz). I am saving this year's Booker winner, by a former student in my department, for Christmas.

## Barbara Cartland



The first choice for my favourite book is by our brilliant historian, Christopher Hibbert. It is entitled *Nelson: A Personal History* (Penguin) and will be a source of inspiration for any student of history. Another famous hero, Douglas Fairbanks Jr, in his wonderful book, *A Hell of a War* (Robson), has written a fascinating account of his experiences in the last war, when he served alongside Lord Mountbatten in the US Navy. Lastly, John Pearson's book on J. Paul Getty and his heirs, *Painfully Rich* (Macmillan), is a compelling book and eminently readable.

## Roger Clarke

Gore Vidal's life has been spent leading up to *Pulipsect: A Memoir* (Deutsch). Pompous but a raconteur of genius. William Burroughs's *My Education: A Book of Dreams* (Picador) is a treasure-trove. Photographer Larry Clark's

*The Perfect Childhood* (Scala) Thames and Hudson) is familiar territory: grunge and teenagers (he directed *Kids*). Paul Auster's essays on creativity *The Red Notebook* (Faber) are aetherial in comparison. David Peat's quirky *Blackfoot Physics* (Fourth Estate) and Peter James's *The Sunken Kingdom* (Cape) are about magic science and a Turkish Atlantis respectively.

## Dermot Clinch

Provocative, complex, just the right side of pretentious, pianist-critic Charles Rosen's *The Romantic Generation* (HarperCollins) sets new standards for thinking and writing on Schumann, Liszt and Chopin. Maynard Solomon's psychobiography of Mozart (Hutchinson) has much about "Plumpi-Strumpf", less about music, but reads like a detective story. Ever wondered why audiences are silent? James H. Johnson's *Listening in Paris* (University of California Press) gives the definitive socio-cultural answer, with narrative and analysis inspiringly mixed. Finally, the francophile's dream: where do you find the freshest *chèvre* in Toulouse? Which *charcuterie* is Cahors's finest? *Coffe 1995* (Guides Balland), available in supermarkets across France, changed my life for a summer.

## Colin Dexter

I'm still amazed at the detective writer, Minette Walters. *The Dark Room* (Macmillan), her fourth novel, booked me from the word go. She has the supreme gift of being a storyteller – for me, this is everything. Walter Moseley, whose *RL's Dream* (Serpent's Tail) came out this autumn, is emerging as the best of the contemporary American crime novelists – be's heading for great things in the Chandler mode. But the really big book I read this year, I got last Christmas: Juliet Barker's massive, lovingly researched and perceptive biography of the Brontës (Phoenix).

## Geoff Dyer

What an disappointing year it was! The two books I was most looking forward to were the ones I most enjoyed: Albert Camus's *The First Man* (Hamish Hamilton) and Thomas Bernhard's *Extinction* (Quartet). Both were magnificent, both were their authors' final testaments – beyond that they could not have been more different. Jay Winter's *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning* (Cambridge) was a sustained, scholarly investigation of the cultural aftermath of the Great War. Winter's title also sums up Erich Hartmann's haunting, unforgettable *In the Camps* (Norton), a collection of photographs of the concentration camps as they exist today. I cannot remember having seen photographs which explore so powerfully the relationship between place and memory.

## Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

In *Green Imperialism*, Richard Grove's creative scholarship traces environmentalism to the world of Gauguin, where troubled expatriates struggled with the fragility of paradise. *Scholastic Humanism and the Unification of Europe Vol. 1* by RW Southern (Blackwell) displays the mind of our most sensitive historian grasping a vast medieval project to restore knowledge forfeit in Eden. In *The Later Tudors* (Oxford), Penny Williams enlivens the traditional formula of an Oxford history without sacrifice of authority. John Keegan's *Warpaths* (Hodder) is a beguiling example of the trend for fusing history and travel. Adam Thorpe's *Still* (Secker) and Francisco Rebollo's *Rasero* (Weidenfeld) are novels fired by historical imaginations which historians should envy.

## Robert Fisk



In a cruel century, we read cruel books. "They intended us to die along with them," Michael Collins says of the 1916 Dublin martyrs. "They didn't explain that to me. Was it explained to you?" A fictional but mightily realistic

Collins in *The End of the Hunt* (Sinclair-Stevenson), the last of Thomas Flanagan's Irish trilogy, ending in 1922; as good a book as any to clarify history while peace still trickles through the Belfast streets. Tim Pat Coogan's *The Troubles* (Hutchinson) took me up to 1995. Amid the snows of Russia, Ryszard Kapuscinski, the greatest living foreign correspondent, guided me across the *Imperium* (Granta) – the collapsing Soviet Union – with the cold eye of a Pole who understands cruelty.

## Penelope Fitzgerald

Margaret Forster's *Hidden Lives* (Viking). Forster found mysteries and secrets, not all of which she could solve, in her story of three generations, ending with her own tough struggle to get the education, the career and the marriage she wanted. Not golden memories, exactly, but something more interesting. Richard Ingrams's *Muggeridge: The Biography* (HarperCollins). With calm authority – the only way to do it – Ingrams has managed to contain wonderfully well the outrageously unquiet spirit of a great journalist. Poy Simmonds's *F-Freezing Alphabet* (Cape). An enormous success with 3-year-olds who are themselves nice and warm under the duvet.

## Roy Foster

For those like myself absorbed in the Yeats world, three books managed to shed light in 1995. William Murphy's *Family Secrets: William Butler Yeats and his Relatives* (Gill and Macmillan) is a treasure-trove of letters and anecdotes, richly textured and spiced with sympathetic irony. Gifford Lewis's beautifully produced *The Yeats Sisters and the Cuala* (Irish Academic Press) at last does justice to the printing and design of the Yeats sisters' arts-and-crafts enterprise. And Lucy McDiarmid's and Maureen Waters's edition of Lady Gregory's *Selected Writings* (Penguin) supplies plays, folk-tales and autobiography with a perceptive introduction that genuinely reassesses this complex and endlessly resourceful woman.

## Margaret Forster



Enjoying is different from admiring, especially where books are concerned. I enjoyed Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity* (Gollancz) without admiring it; I admired *The Year's Midnight* by Alex Benzie (Viking) for what it tried to do, but I was glad when I'd finished it. But when enjoying and admiring come together that is something: this year this happened most satisfactorily of all with an autobiography, *The Railway Man* by Eric Lomax (Cape). I've always been drawn to accounts of any kind of imprisonment, and this is the most admirable I have ever read, but it was how the author describes his loss for revenge, and how he finally dealt with it, which impressed me most. A rare book – exciting, moving and written with a clear and definite purpose.

## Patrick French

During the summer I found myself reading the collected works of Joanna Trollope, by accident I like to think, and was captivated by her mild subversion of traditional British values. *A Village Affair* and *The Rector's Wife* (Black Swan) were the best. But my favourite book this year must be Tsuguhito Takeuchi's enthralling study of early cross-cultural social and trading links, *Old Tibetan Contracts from Central Asia* (Daizou Shuppan Publishing).

## Sue Gaisford

Henrietta Leyser's *Medieval Women* (Weidenfeld) is the best history book I've read for years, full of stories and surprises and written with gentle elegance from enormous knowledge. The appendix suggests a receipt to cure every female ailment: it includes, among its 37 ingredients, purified peonies, Macedonian pelitory and fawort. More recent history comes from the BBC's superb team of exiled reporters, distilled into *From Our Own Correspondent, The First Forty Years* (BBC/Pan),

which would make a good Christmas present. And once again Hilary Mantel produced my favourite novel of the year: *An Experiment in Love* (Viking) is written with subtle perceptiveness, sharp wit and canny wisdom.

## Lyndall Gordon

Mark Bostridge has made a distinguished debut with his life of Vera Brittain co-authored with Paul Berry (Chatto): a full-scale biography that leaves behind the standard plod of pedigree to grave. This thoughtful portrait of a dauntless feminist and pacifist combines the readability of a novel with the authenticity of fact. Joan Smith's *Full Stop* (Chatto), the fifth of her intelligent crime novels, opens up the disturbing but little-discussed subject of sexual fear – an experience most women would find absorbingly familiar. Finally, John Hollander's field-changing collection, *American Poetry of the 19th Century* (Library of America, 2 vols).

## Christina Hardymont

Fanny Trollope's *Widow Barnaby* (Alan Sutton), first published in 1839 and reprinted this year to accompany Teresa Ransom's excellent biography of the author, is Jane Austen with the gloves off. Mother of the more famous Anthony but just as good a storyteller, Fanny spins a compulsively readable and very funny yarn of debt, double-dealing and the seamy side of Bath society. Too close to the bone for the prudish Victorians, today Fanny deserves to come back into her own. Ann Wroe's *A Fool and his Money: Life in a Partitioned Medieval Town* (Cape) is history as quest, told with such vivid turns of phrase that it reads like watching a film. Alice K. Turner's *History of Hell* (Robert Hale) traces the idea of the Great Below from Ancient Mesopotamia through medieval harrowings to modern times (hell is other people, said Sartre; hell is oneself, said TS. Eliot). It's full of unforgettable characters and themes which jump time and place to recur with uncanny similarities: ferryman and fearful hounds, divine queens and dread lords, visitors on hopeless quests for lost loved ones.

## Roy Hattersley

The best biography of the year was Peter Ackroyd's *Blake* (Sinclair-Stevenson), an exciting evocation of the poet's life and times, a

# CHRISTMAS BOOKS

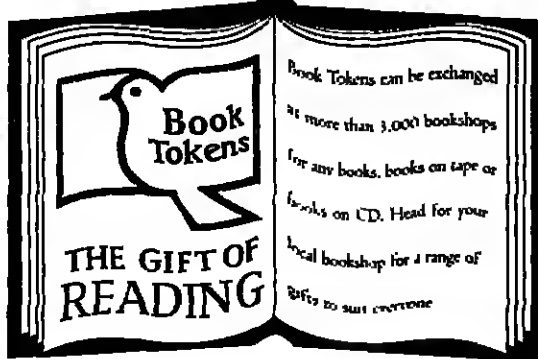
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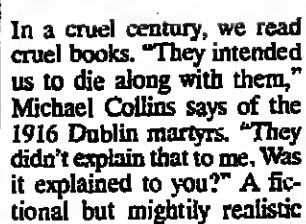
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Who enjoyed what in 1995? Independent reviewers and contributors choose their favourite titles, and on pages 8-11 we suggest books for the Christmas stocking

## Food

## Gardening

## Wine

## Classical Music

## Sport

I never read enough poetry, but Mark Dory's *My Alexander* (Cape) announced that rarest of birds, an American poet who is neither preening, portentous nor self-absorbed. His technical assurance lends a marmoreal beauty to poems about dying, danger and memory in the time of AIDS. Art history comes my way too seldom as a reviewer, but I've relished the shroud reappraisals in James Christen Steward's *The New Child* (Washington), a lavishly detailed account of the way English 18th-century artists changed the way we look at our beloved little monsters.

### Angela Lambert

Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road* (Viking) was the best book I read this year, I must say. I also greatly enjoyed Margaret Forster's *Hidden Lives* (Viking), a memoir of three generations of her own family in Carlisle which throbbed with authenticity and painful discoveries. Charles Blackmore's quite different journey of discovery took him to the Taklamakan Desert in China, from which his brilliant book takes its title: *The Worst Desert on Earth* (Murray). Finally, Jane Rogers's remarkably inventive novel *Promised Lands* (Faber) introduced me to this author, all of whose books I have now read and hugely admired.

### Jeremy Lewis

Shrewd, sad and funny, D.J. Enright's *Interplay* (Oxford) is a nimble combination of commonplace book and autobiography. He has some harsh word to say about literary biographies (and quite right too), but even he might be moved and entertained by Selma Hastings's elegant life of Evelyn Waugh (Sinclair-Stevenson). Those anxious to linger in that particular patch of English literary life should turn to the second volume of Betjeman's *Letters* (Methuen), edited by Candida Lycett Green. The comic mispellings and strained jocularities are, mercifully, less in evidence than in Volume I: both books add up to a marvellous self-portrait of a man who, like his poetry, was a good deal more melancholy than he appeared on the surface.

### Lachlan Mackinnon

Richard Daveport-Hines's *Auden* (Faber), more a collection of biographical essays than a linear biography, powerfully evokes the fertility and brilliance of England's greatest 20th-century poet. Auden once proposed marriage to Hannah Arendt, whose bleak account of the event is in the

some measure the original of his Mr Biswas - it's the comedy of a Trinidad had-John who turns into a Hindu pundit. Also: a new life of Robert Burns by Ian McIntyre, and the early life of Andrew O'Hagan, as told by O'Hagan, among other stories, in his book *The Missing* (Picador).

### Lucasta Miller

Anyone who, like me, has been working on the Brontës must have breathed a huge sigh of relief when Margaret Smith published her definitive edition of *The Letters of Charlotte Brontë* (Oxford) - after 150 years, all this marvellously biting and passionate correspondence has finally been pulled together in a text you can trust. Margaret Forster's *Hidden Lives* (Viking) an intimate account of three female generations of her own family, was more illuminating than any social history. As a complete illiterate when it comes to Physics and Chemistry, I was amazed to find myself absorbed in John Carey's *Faber Book of Science*. And Peter Conrad's literary critical study *To Be Continued: Four Stories and their Survival* (Oxford) had moments of such disarming cleverness that I had to admire it despite its flaws.

### Jan Morris



In an exceptionally good year of reading and reviewing, five books gave me particular pleasure in different ways. I greatly admired Lawrence James's tremendous *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire* (Little, Brown). I loved Penelope Fitzgerald's hauntingly peculiar novel, *The Blue Flower* (Flamingo). I shall never forget Theo Richmond's elegiac but hearteningly entertaining *Konin* (Cape), about the fate of a Jewish shtetl in Poland. I was exhilarated by Patrick French's rip-roaring biography *Youngblood* (HarperCollins). But most of all, I have to say, I enjoyed Ivao Turgenev's *A Huntsman's Sketches* (Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow) - and in translation at that.

### Jeff Nuttall

Eric Hobsbawm's *Age of Extremes* (Abacus) came none too soon with its sane perspective on the century's implosion. Gillian Rose, writing like a poet in *Love's Work* (Chatto), helps us to live in circumstances which are never likely to be what we want. Iain Sinclair in *Radon Daughters* (Vintage) and Cormack McCarthy in *The Crossing* (Picador) both demonstrated that prose continues to be a vehicle for visionary invention, while Maggie O'Sullivan's *In the House of the Shaman* (Reality Street) spun wild panoramic verse that rescues poetry from all fears concerning its moribund state in the era of so-called post-modernism.

### Cristina Odono

When the dust of history settles, future generations will wonder at our present fascination with in-your-face macho scribbles which threaten to drown out the quiet, dignified writings of our most consistently undervalued novelist, Anita Brookner. As I read her latest, *Incidents in the rue Laugier* (Cape), I once again marvelled at the quiet elegance of her prose. Another favourite novel: David McLaurin's *Mortal Sins* (Duckworth) - a Banana Republic setting for the battle between good and evil. Best biography: Clive Fisher's *A Nostalgic Life*, a haunting portrait of Cyril Connolly (Macmillan).

### Peter Parker

Pace George Walden, two novels on historical themes: Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road* (Viking), in which she manages to pull together, in a deeply moving conclusion, the many rich strands of her haunting First World War trilogy; and Mark Merritt's *American Studies* (Fourth Estate), a funny, troubling and beautifully written book about love, lust and betrayal in the McCarthy era. Two books about poets: the alternately hilarious and harrowing second volume of Betjeman's *Letters 1951-1984* (Methuen),

edited without affectation or piety by his daughter; and Richard Davenport-Hines's hugely intelligent and illuminating account of what it was like to be Auden (Heinemann).

### Harriet Paterson

It was pure literary pleasure to read *The Siren* (Harvill), selected works of Giuseppe di Lampedusa: haunting childhood memories of Sicily, one or two lyrical pieces of fiction, but best of all his passionate and humorous literary criticism. My historical novel of the year is the wildly ambitious *Rasero* (Weidenfeld) by the new Mexican writer Francisco Rebollo, a full immersion in the Enlightenment, rank with politics, sex, philosophy and death. Finally, the 16th edition of the great *Story of Art* (Pbaidon) must qualify, with new additions on the 20th century: 45 years on, Ernst Gombrich is still as delightful as ever.

### Roy Porter

Two books have given me unexpected delight this year: *The Red Queen's Dream* by Jo Elwyn Jones and J. Francis Gladstone (Cape), which charmingly unlocks the enigmas of Alice; and Steven Lukes's *The Curious Enlightenment of Professor Curran* (Verso), a witty up-dating of Voltaire's *Candide*. Three works have done the essential job of exposing the corruption of public life and government in this country begun by the crazed Mrs Thatcher and continued by the creep who succeeded her: Will Hutton's *The State We're In* (Cape); Simon Jenkins's *Accountable to None: The Tory Nationalization of Britain* (Hamish Hamilton); and Peter Heennessy's *The Hidden Wiring: Unearthing the British Constitution* (Gollancz). Copies of each make essential gifts for any relative still to be contemplating voting Conservative.

### Miranda Seymour

I absolutely loved *The Young Disraeli* (Sinclair-Stevenson). Jane Ridley paints a marvellously spirited and intelligent portrait of Dizzy in his dissolute years as an inveterate gambler who paid his debts by writing the lush novels which caused Lady Salisbury loftily to dismiss him as "very clever, but superlatively vulgar". *Journey to the Ants* (Harvard) is by Bert Hölldobler and Edward O. Wilson. You don't need to be a myrmecologist to be enthralled by stories of the equivalent of building the Great Wall of China. The photographs are breathtaking. Jane Rogers's *Promised Lands* (Faber) is a novel which deserved to be on the Booker shortlist for its powerful and mesmerising account of conflict in the first Botany Bay settlement.

### Ned Sherrin

John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (Chatto) had me most on the edge of my chair - but if I had been listening to the Radio 4 reading of John Betjeman's *Letters* (Methuen) at the time I might happily have relaxed. I giggled through Colin Clarke's *The Prince, the Showgirl and Me* (HarperCollins) and await further exposures. Gore Vidal's *Palimpsest* (Deutsch) was not ruined by his two television appearances and I'm sorry that he is still not speaking to me. I dare say we shall both live long enough. I do hope he does. Keith Waterhouse's *City Lights* (Hodder) is required reading, as is Michael Parkinson's *Sporting Profiles* (Pavilion) - he's the best sports interviewer.

### Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson

John le Carré was on top form with *Our Games* (Hodder), a wonderfully sour book in which he displayed remarkable prescience about developments in Czechnya. Barry Unsworth's *Mortality Play* (Hamish Hamilton) was that rare book which left me wanting it to be longer. Justin Cartwright's *In Every Face I Meet* (Sceptre) defied George Walden's animadversions against the sins of nostalgia by being chillingly up to the minute. And, for pure entertainment, wit and elegance, I must pick out Julian Barnes's *Letters from London* (Picador). Mrs Thatcher will never seem the same again.

### DJ Taylor



For anyone even remotely interested in 19th-century literature, Edgar F. Harden's magisterial *The Letters and Private Papers of William Makepeace Thackeray* (2 vols, Garland), a supplement to Gordon N. Ray's equally magisterial four volume edition of 1945-6, is an extraordinary piece of scholarship - 1,600 pages of new and refined material on what is already one of the better documented mid-Victorian lives. In a completely different arena, I liked Ivor Crewe's and Anthony King's thoroughly exhaustive chronicle *SDP: The Life, Birth and Death of the Social Democratic Party* (Oxford). Two novels I enjoyed were Hilary Mantel's *An Experiment in Love* (Viking) and Timothy Mo's *Brownout on Breadfruit Boulevard* (Paddleless).

### Barbara Trapido



This year I enjoyed Robertson Davies's *The Cunning Man* (Viking), a febrile mix of high Anglicanism and high drama. Also Michael Dibdin's brainy thriller, *Dark Spectre* (Faber), read heart-in-mouth all the way. Catching up with last year in paperback, I loved John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (Chatto) and Louis de Bernières's *Captain Correlli's Mandolin* (Minerva). Best pre-publication treat was *Angels and Men* by Catherine Fox (Hamish Hamilton), a first novel to watch for in January.

### John Walsh

I was very impressed by Barry Unsworth's *Mortality Play* (Secker). Cynics suggested the book was just Rosemary Sutcliffe medievalism, but it was much more than that. Unsworth's feat is to dramatise a shift in sensibility, from Dark Ages to Enlightenment, through the plight of six am-dram strollers, and to evoke with conviction a time when a reasonable man could imagine he was watching the Antichrist riding through the trees to steal his unshriven soul away. Martin Amis's *The Information* (Hamish Hamilton) was a calm, domesticated trot through old themes of envy, glamour, success and betrayal, but none the worse for that. And *High Fidelity* (Gollancz), Nick Hornby's tale of mid-life crisis among the record racks, deployed a few hundred casually acute perceptions about would-be sensitive malehood.

### Robert Winder

Tony Harrison's *The Shadow of Hiroshima* (Faber) confirmed his mastery of both easy idioms and epic themes. He once referred to himself as the Yorkshire poet who came to read the metre; but here the clasp-your-hands rhythm and rhymes, stirred by an icy, sorrowful anger, made a fierce ballad out of the blast. Bryan Magee and the late Martin Milligan put together a remarkable philosophical correspondence in *On Blindness* (Oxford). The latter's own blindness allowed them to argue, with at times revealing defensiveness, about the nature of knowledge. And even those not enchanted by Gore Vidal's novels will find it hard to resist the lordly condescension and avid witticisms in his memoir, *Palimpsest* (Deutsch).

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# Fishy apple and left-over goose

Christopher Hirst lifts the steaming lid on Christmas books by TV chefs



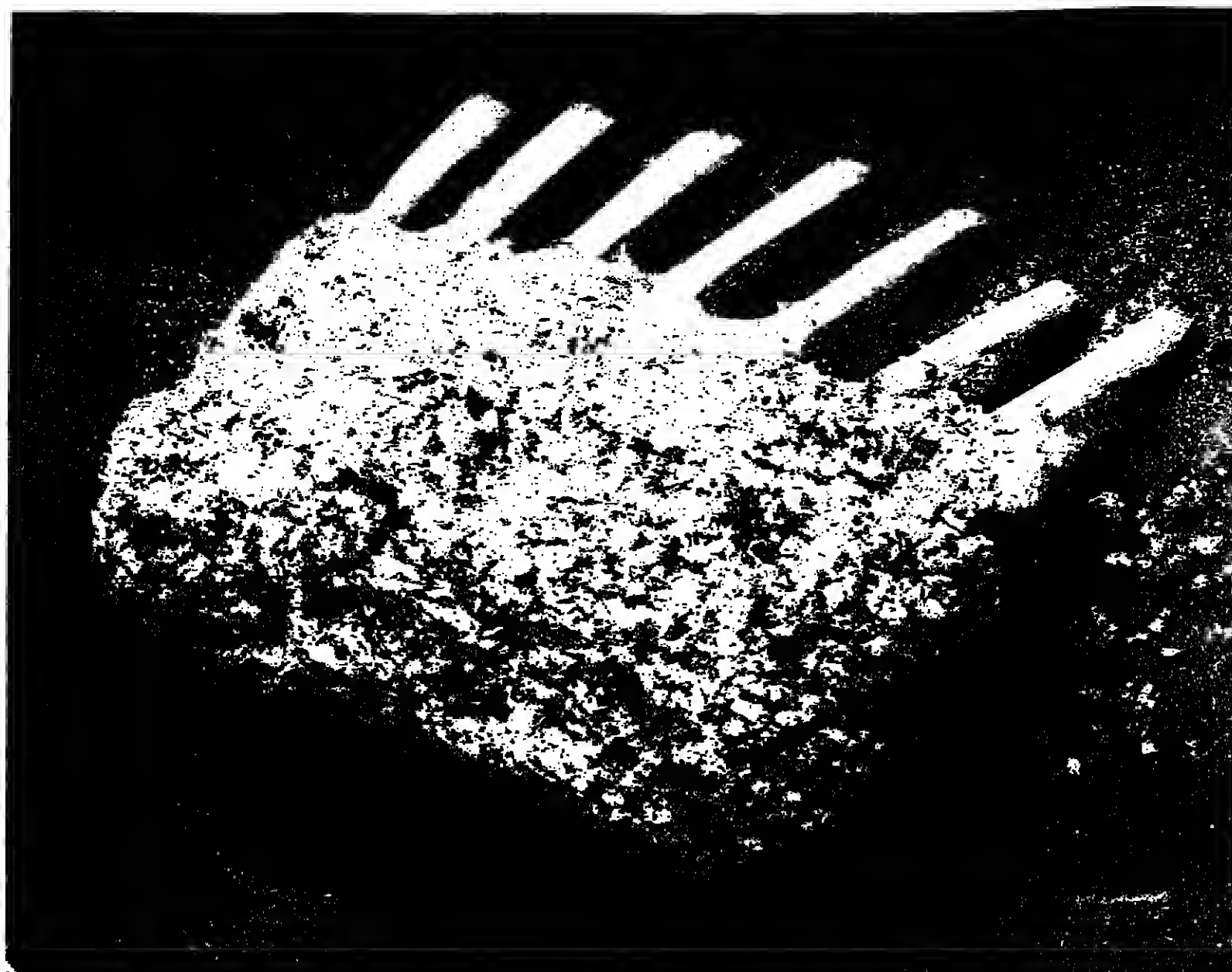
**B**obbing in the wake of this year's blockbuster from The Blessed Delia are glossy offerings from four other TV chefs — one who is midway through her third series, one welcome newcomer and a pair of old lags.

Based on her Channel 4 series, Sophie Grigson's *Meat Course* (BBC Network, £17.99) ranges across a sanguinary spectrum from Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding to the sublime but simple Vitello Tonnato (veal and tuna, an unlikely but very happy pairing). Her recipes are admirably clear and precise. According to a friend who cooked the dish, Grigson's inclusion of a single strip of dried orange zest in her Daube de Boeuf "made all the difference".

Unlike certain cookbooks which exude all the warmth of a NASA engineering manual, this has been written with human beings in mind ("gently waggle your fingers under the skin of the chicken..."). Though *The Real Meat Cookbook* by Frances Bissell covered the same territory in greater detail a couple of years ago (including, for example, a chapter on goat dishes), Grigson's work benefits from luscious colour photography — you can virtually crunch the crackling on the back cover — and its 160 recipes will satisfy the most avid carnivore. One problem, though, is getting a proficient butcher who sells properly-hung meat. Grigson admits she hasn't been able to find one since moving to Northants. If she can't, what hope is there for the rest of us?

Rick Stein's *Taste of the Sea* (BBC, £16.99) is a worthy accompaniment to what was probably the BBC's best-ever cookery series. A lucid and inspiring writer, Stein is an evangelist for our "mackerel-crowded seas", though he should have resisted the urge to prance in the hazy wearing his chef's whites for the benefit of the jacket photograph. The book contains 160 recipes together with a comprehensive explanation of techniques and local fish species. Typical of Stein's invention and simplicity is Hot Shellfish with Garlic and Lemon Juice, which is just a big plate of freshly cooked *fruits de mer* in a sauce containing olive oil, parsley and a chopped chilli pepper. I've done it on two or three occasions and each time its appearance has drawn gasps, its taste has elicited sighs.

Which is far more than can be said for *Moules à la Crème* from Crafty French Cooking by Michael Barry (Pavilion, £16.99). He once produced the dish on the *The Food and Drink Programme*, with his cohort Chris Kelly providing vigorous salivary endorsements. Coincidentally, I was planning to have mussels for dinner, so I cooked them, as directed, with cornflour, cream and — madness, I know — apple juice. The result was something that tasted like a fishy apple-pie but without the crust. (The version printed here has been amended to include cider and dry white wine as alternatives to the juice.) The main problem with this book is that Barry's annoying "crafty" approach to cooking — taking shortcuts, substituting ingredients — is wholly alien to the world's greatest cuisine. As a result, his recipes are mundane, ersatz and often weirdly un-French. His *Salade Fermée*, for instance, includes iceberg lettuce, which is something of a rarity in France, and "crumbly blue



Take one breaded stickleback... no, it's the Rack of Lamb with a Herb Crust from 'Sophie Grigson's Meat Course'

cheese — Roquefort, Gorgonzola or Stilton", while his version of the classic Confit of Goose is reduced to a "good way of using up the leftovers".

Keith Floyd specifies two hotlives of Muscadet in his version of *Moules à la Marinère* — though it is for six people. Selected from his previous 10 books, *The Best of Floyd* (Michael Joseph, £16.99) reminds you of the gifted cook hidden behind the irate, rather desperate figure we see on the box. Basically, this is Seventies bistro cooking — Gazpacho, Beef Stew with Garlic and Prunes, Zabaglione — but Floyd has good taste and his recipes are easy to follow. Often his best ideas, such as Fresh Broad Beans with Bacon, are the simplest. Unfortunately, the book is marred by egotistical introductions written in a breathless, laboured style, as if by a schoolboy who has just read Hemingway ("It is Provence. It is summer. The town clock strikes its tiny bell 12 times.") Whatever criterion was applied in the selection of his best recipes, it wasn't economy. His recipe for the New Orleans dish, Oyster Po'Boy (fried oyster in baguettes) incorporates 48 bivalves and will set you back about £25 for two sand-

wiches.

Let's turn to a real cookbook produced, miraculously to relate, without the benefit of an accompanying TV series. The dishes in *The Classic Food of Northern Italy* by Anna del Conte (Pavilion, £19.99) are devoted to a less familiar aspect of Italian cuisine, based on butter, polenta and rice rather than olive oil and pasta. Neither sun-dried tomatoes nor mozzarella appears in the book. Encyclopaedic within its ambit, the recipes range from the sustaining stews of the Alpine borders and the fish soups of the Ligurian coast to the game roasts of the Marches. Del Conte is persuasive even about Venetian cooking, while admitting that few restaurants in that magical city do it justice. The book's heartland is the region of Emilia Romagna, dominated by the culinary heaven of Bologna. Under her penny-plain titles — Bread with Raisins, Poached Chicken in a Vinegar Sauce — Del Conte's recipes are clearly described and informatively introduced. This is a definitive volume which anyone who wants to cook real Italian food should acquire.

In *Food of the Sun* (Quadrille, £20), Alastair Little and Richard Whitting-

ton adopt exactly the reverse approach to Anne Del Conte. Spreading their net across the whole Mediterranean, they take the view that a host of dishes, perfected in the warm south over the centuries, can benefit from a certain amount of additional tinkering or, as they prefer it, "incremental improvements and modifications". As you would expect, there is some good creative cooking here, but, in many respects, the successor to the authors' award-winning *Keep It Simple* might have been titled *Bigger It Up*.

Take, for mystifying example, one of their more extreme non-canonical concoctions, Tarama with Shredded Lobster. Firstly, why bother bringing these two perfectly fine foods together? Secondly, how do you tackle it? Tarama is a dip, lobster isn't. Do you fork up the lobster before applying a lump of bread to the former? In general, the less the recipes have been amended — as with Black-Eyed Peas & Spinach or a perfectly straightforward Cassoulet — the better they are.

The book is not helped by a messy design and an excessively mannered text. It very nearly followed Michael Barry's mussels into the bin when I

found myself being addressed as "gentle reader".

The *Fine Art of Dining* (Little, Brown, £17.50), handsomely illustrated by Graham Rust, is sub-titled "Recipes From World-Famous Chefs and Kitchens". It includes offerings from Raymond Blanc (Tartare of Marinated Wild Salmon), Albert Roux (Soufflés with Swiss Cheese), Jeffrey Archer... Hang on a minute, it can't be him. Oh yes it can. Donning his starched toque, the Brillat-Savarin of Grootchester proposes a Smoked Chicken Salad (Actually, it's not too bad — but skip the raisins and beansprouts). There's also Norma Major's Rahhit Chasseur and, keeping things balanced, Glenys Kinlock's Onion Cake (*Feiser Nionad* in Welsh) in which, oddly, she doesn't specify red onions.

Compiled for a charitable cause, this eclectic mix of chefs and celebs — La Tante Claire meets an upmarket branch of the W.I. — works unexpectedly well, with many recipes offering potential as conversation pieces. I mean, does the newly slender Oprah Winfrey really eat a dish consisting of potatoes mashed with double cream, butter and creamed horseradish?

## Nectar in the aisles

Nicholas Faith savours this year's bumper crop of wine guides



**C**onfronted by 17 of this autumn's books on alcoholic drinks, I can only assume that publishers retain a touching confidence in the British public's thirst for knowledge of beers, spirits and, above all, wines. So I'm sorry to disappoint them: the one truly original book in the genre comes not from a regular publisher but from Germanine Greer's favourite supermarket chain, Sainsbury's. The *Sainsbury's Pocket Food and Wine Guide* (at £2.95, also the cheapest of the lot) is the best guide ever produced, designed to help the reader decide what wine to serve with what food — and what food will go with any particular bottle you have handy.

The authors' research was certainly thorough (at the only sampling session I attended I gave up after tasting a mere 32 wines combined with five vegetable dishes). They cover every type of dish, from macaroni semolina (to Rogan Josh (Pinot Grigio or a lightly packed Chardonnay). They are not out to upset preconceptions: dry sherry really does go "brilliantly" (a tiresome favourite adjective of theirs) with olives. Roquefort with Sauternes and Stilton with (awny) port.

Kathryn McWhirter and

Charles Metcalfe, the wife-and-husband team responsible for the Guide, are both members of the Octagon, a supposedly select group of wine writers. According to Malcolm Gluck: "It is widely believed that the impoverished adherents of this sect possess a special handshake, and slobber scarce New World wines over each other in arcane rites of fidelity." This is typical of Gluck, the Vinny Jones of wine writing. What is also typical is that in his two books (*Gluck's Guide to High Street Wine* and *Superplonk 1996*, and *Gluck's Guide to Supermarket Wine*, Coronet, both £4.99) he gives a comprehensive and largely reliable guide to the huge number of worthwhile but not-so-fine wines available in Britain.

Gluck formerly played for Faber, rather too gentlemanly a club for him, and they've tried to replace him with a pitifully inadequate substitute by Tom Stevenson entitled *SuperBooze 1996* (£4.99). Faber shows its true strength in a more specialised field with Stephen Brook's book *Sauternes* (£16.99), one of a long-running series. This includes a number of brilliant monographs, notably Anthony Hanson on Burgundy and John Livingstone-Learmonth on Côte du Rhône) which are the standard works on their respective regions. Brook joins the club with a book which is both thorough and well written. He is appreciative of the winemakers' difficulties, and

recounts some of his own: his encounter with Noël Labat, owner of Chateau Menota came "as he drove into the courtyard while I was talking to his wife. He did not take kindly to my presence and yelled at me while peeing against the wall of the chais. I took a hasty departure, so my researches are incomplete... The only vintage of Menota I have tasted is the 1983, which did not incline me to taste any others."

Gluck is competing in a crowded field of regular annual guides. Daddy of them all is the 19th edition of Hugh Johnson's *Pocket Wine Book* (Mitchell Beazley, £8.99), which remains a model of concision and reliability — though he's old-fashioned enough to devote more space to German wines, 95 per cent of which are simply sugared grape water, than to Australia and New Zealand combined.

Three other guides (all from members of Gluck's beloved Octagon) take slightly different approaches. *Grapevine: The Complete Wine-Drinker's Handbook* by Tim Atkin and the *Independent's* own wine writer Anthony Rose (Headline, £6.99) provide thorough and reliable coverage, in a single volume, of what's available from supermarkets, wine merchants, chains — and the best shops in Calais and Boulogne. Oz Clarke has lent his name to a guide to the world's wine regions, *Oz Clarke's Wine Guide* (Websters/Mitchell Beazley, £9.99), written by a lot of other people, some rather good (like me on the

Côte du Rhône for example) but it's a package's book, not a personal guide. Robert Joseph tries, and mostly succeeds, in combining the lot, wines and outlets, in a single volume. The *Sunday Telegraph* *Good Wine Guide* (£7.99), greatly helped by the tastings held for the annual Challenge he conducts for *Wine* magazine. Sadly, the best-written of them all, the *Evening Standard* *London Wine Guide* by Andrew Jefford (Pavilion £9.99), has a misleading title, with less than half the book devoted to London's wine shops and wine bars (and nothing on restaurants with especially good wine lists).

Most ambitious project of the year is Oz Clarke's *Wine Atlas*, with new-style maps which try and show the lie of the land in the world's best wine regions. A great idea, with informative texts, but sadly the maps aren't sufficiently sharply defined to give Hugh Johnson's *Wine Atlas*, a run for its money.

Finally, two books on beer, an increasingly fashionable subject. The pace-setter, beer's answer to Hugh Johnson, remains Michael Jackson, and it's a compliment to both to say that the sixth edition of *Jackson's Pocket Beer Book* (Mitchell Beazley £8.99) is on the Johnson level. More ambitious is the *Ultimate Encyclopedia of Beer* (Carlton/Prion £16.99) by Roger Protz, a pioneer Camra-man. It's well written and gives a good feel for the world's breweries and their brews.

## A touch of zane

David Aaronovitch's sanity is threatened by a surfeit of fun



**N**ever turn down a job. That's my motto, because in this business it could be your last. And the task — reviewing the Christmas humour books — seemed simple enough. A couple of cartoon annuals, a *Private Eye* anthology, Alan Coren's obligatory volume and an early ride home on the Dockland Light Railway.

The thud with which the enormous pile of Yuletide funnies hit my desk reverberated around Canary Wharf. Four floors down, in the offices of the *Daily Telegraph*, the defence correspondent dived for cover and a couple of the most bellicose leader writers hung white flags from the windows. By the end of the third day's reading I was giggling uncontrollably. I was also trapping cockroaches in a jamjar and teaching them Polish. It wasn't until a week later that I was ready to put pen to paper. Here, at long last, are my thoughts.

All publishers know that humorous books are kept and read in the lavatory, whence they travel to boxes in cupboards, and finally to jumble sales or school fairs. All women know that the only people who read in the lavatory are men. To be successful, a funny book should be aimed at men and divided into chapters that take no

longer to read than a successful bowel movement and two shakes of a lamb's tail.

It would help if, in addition, it were funny. This may seem a strange injunction, but my week's research convinces me that either humour is so subjective that all any reviewer of funny books can say is "Read it yourself", or else that most humour is sold on the basis of the author's reputation in some other medium.

TV comedians are the most fertile source of books that owe their genesis to no visible intrinsic value. Consider Paul Merton's spoof autobiography of a 60-year-old light entertainer, *My Struggle* (Boxtree, £7.99). This is a 160-page plodding pastiche of the type of memoir that no-one in their right mind would ever have read in the first place, illustrated by old photographs with feeble captions. Merton is a busy and successful comic — so how much time did he actually spend on this book?

A lot more than Peter Ustinov did on *Quotable Ustinov* (Michael O'Mara Books, £10.99). This appalling tome seems to be the product of some publishing anorak spending a year combing all of Ustinov's voluminous work for aphorisms and epithets, extracting them from their context (thus rendering them practically idiotic) and showing them next to a series of dreadful drawings. Still, if you know someone who can profit from "Corruption is nature's way of restoring our faith in democracy", and feel that you have £11 more than you know what to do with, this is for you.

Another fiver and that awkward brother or ex-boyfriend can be the proud owner of *In Search of Happiness*, the book of the BBC TV series (Macmillan, £16.99). This was a brilliant idea (send Angus Deayton round the world to look at the bizarre ways that some folk get their jollies), which involved the laconic funster in encounters with self-trepanners and polygamists. There's some interesting stuff here, but I felt that the series didn't live up to the idea, largely because of Deayton's famous detachment. The 56 photos of Deayton in the book — looking detached, where he isn't actually asleep — stand testimony to the publisher's faith in his pulling power, if not to their judgement. I would have preferred a few shots of Deayton's co-author, Lise Mayer, who is a talented comic writer.

There's the usual BBC comedy annual aimed at the younger male (*Lee and Herings List of Fun*, BBC £8.99) which is as incomprehensible to me as Monty Python was to my Dad ("what's so funny about a dead parrot?"); the usual Glen Baxter offering (*The Wonder Book of Sex*, Little Brown, £9.99) which proves that every good idea has a natural shelf life and that it's always much shorter than the life of its begetter. Ronald Searle has put his incomparable artistic talents to strange use in *Something in the Cellar* (Souvenir Press, £14.99), where exquisite drawings on the theme of wine utterly fail to amuse any but the most bibulous.

I know what you're thinking: "Bloody mean-spirited wretch, this Aaronovitch. Probably the kind of chap who only laughs at road accidents and children with razor blades". Let me reassure you. Buried deep in this mountain of zane, whimsy and chuckle are a couple of gems. Inside the *Magic Rectangle* (Gollancz, £14.99), the collection of Victor Lewis-Smith's TV reviews from the *Evening Standard*, brings together the most barbed, cruel and offensive attacks ever written on the wit and wisdom of those who make and present programmes. His diatribe against Vanessa Feltz, who he speculates has gained all the fat that Oprah and Ricky Lake have lost, is alone worth the cover price. A request from the *Standard* for a review tape must send shudders down the spine of producers from Shepherd's Bush to Grampian.

Which brings me to the *Private Eye* Book of *Craig Brown Parodies* (Corgi, £4.99). I had never read any of these pieces, and have generally passed over Brown's work, offended because every week he reviews restaurants where I cannot afford to eat. More fool me. This is comedy at its tightest, most literate and most satisfying. Brown as Martin Amis is prolix and self-indulgent, as Alan Clark is painfully priapic and degenerate, as Jeanette Winterson he howls for love, art, social justice and decent tea. And when it comes to Brown's Keith Richard, here's some serious medical advice. Leave this till after what oamnes used to call "voiding".







# Visions of Paradise

Anna Pavord puts on her wellies and weeds out the best gardening books of the season



Frost on the lawn: the author's garden, from David Hicks's 'Cotswold Gardens', photographs by Andrew Lawson (Weidenfeld, £25)

## Gardening

Nothing this year has made me more envious than the photograph of a flower border at St Nicholas, the late Bobbie James's garden in Richmond, Yorkshire. It is one of a sumptuous collection of black and white images in *The Country House Garden* by Brent Elliott (Mitchell Beazley, £40). These have been culled from the archives of *Country Life* and Dr Elliott has woven through them a narrative of exemplary clarity which tells the story of garden design from 1897, when *Country Life* was launched, up to the Second World War.

The border is not what you would normally think of as a flower border. A wide, comfortable grass path runs straight through an avenue of young apple trees. Under the apples are sheets of iris, running as far as you can see. Among the iris are randomly planted tulips. It is ravishing and I want it even more than the cast bronze fauns guarding the pool at Harold Peto's garden, Iford Manor in Wiltshire, which also features.

The book is printed on thick, glossy paper which reproduces these old black and white photographs in mesmerising detail. Images of the powerful, dominant garden of the late Victorian era give way to the softer, more intimate and enclosed settings of the Edwardian age. Lutyens is there of course, but the erudite Dr Elliott introduces a number of much less well-known figures whose influence was equally important. Gertrude Jekyll is generally supposed to have had the greatest influence on planting design in the Arts and Crafts epoch. The author argues that her pedestal should be more properly occupied by William Wildsmith, head gardener at Eckfield Place, Hampshire.

Gardens that we now think of as being settled and venerable are revealed here in their new, rather too crisply pressed clothes. The octagonal water garden at Folly Farm in Berkshire, a Lutyens/Jekyll design for the Astors, is startlingly spartan. So are the terraces at Fort Lympne, Philip Sassoon's Twenties house in Kent, rising in cliffs of uncovered stone. From the centre of the bathing pool there, wrote the garden's designer, Philip Tilden, there rose a fountain "that used up all the water in the district in an hour". That must have made Sassoon popular with his neighbours.

No book could be a better companion than this on a long, lazy Christmas afternoon. Clearly and authoritatively, Brent Elliott leads us through the maze of influences, styles and personalities that brought about some of the most influential gardens of

the age. He is particularly good on the rise of the woodland garden and the arrival of the rockery, both of which were the results of an increasing trend for plantsmanship rather than design to be the defining characteristic of a garden. We are still suffering from that imbalance today.

A photographic garden history by Roger Phillips and Nicky Foy (Macmillan, £25) divides its images by subject. These cover a wide range – doorways, gates, staircases, pools, pots, potagers, topiary – interspersed between double page spreads of gardens such as Knightshayes and Hever Castle, which exemplify a particular style or age in gardening. The bulk of the book is concerned with Western gardens, but there are two excellent sections at the end, covering those of China and Japan, often muddled in the minds of those of us who garden in a different tradition. In the main, the images come from grand gardens and the way they are arranged makes this a book that you can dip in and out of with great pleasure.

If you asked a Chinese or Japanese tourist to name the first English garden that came into their mind, it would probably be Sissinghurst, whose creator, Vita Sackville-West,

died more than 30 years ago. It now belongs to the National Trust, who have gardened there as long as the hallowed V.S.W. herself. It is not surprising then that Tony Lord's brilliant new book *Gardening at Sissinghurst* (Frances Lincoln, £25) should reveal the extent to which the place has altered, in some cases quite radically, over the last three decades. The polyanthus carpeting the nuttrey was a key feature of the garden in the late Thirties (the Nicolson got the idea from Gertrude Jekyll whom they had visited at Munstead Wood). Soil sickness prevents any being grown there now. Harold Nicolson never liked his wife's choice of "suburban" azaleas for the most walk, a harsh selection of turn of the century cultivars. Nor, it seems, did the National Trust. Gradually, the most jarring colours were removed as the old bushes were rejuvenated, leaving chiefly soft yellow tones to hold the space. This is a fascinating book which benefits to a great extent from the memories of Sissinghurst's recently retired gardeners. Pamela Schwerdt and Sybille Kreuzberger. Tony Lord's own photographs provide a perfect complement to the text. Severely practical in its content and layout is *The New*

*Houseplant Survival Manual* by Jane Bland and William Davidson (Ward Lock, £10.99). The format follows a formula that is easy for newcomers to interpret. Light, position, temperature range, watering, feeding and other instructions to keep plants happy are laid out with symbols on one side of the page, with the rather frightening number of pests and diseases to which houseplants are subject illustrated in gory close-up. A staggering number of houseplants are given as presents at Christmas. This manual will help to ensure they last beyond January.

For a stocking, look for *The Garden: Visions of Paradise* by Gabrielle van Zuylen, one of the New Horizons series published by Thames and Hudson (£6.95). It is not much bigger than a standard paperback but is beautifully designed, the text squeezing its way round a rich series of images. Here is the Pitti Palace in Florence as it looked in the 16th century. Here is the well-faced face of Jean-Charles Alphand who laid out so many of Paris's parks. Read Piny the Younger's description of his villa garden at Città di Castello in Tuscany. It was written c.100 AD but could have come straight from the pages of this month's *Gardens Illustrated*.

## Books for Christmas



WHO GOES HOME?  
Scenes from a Political Life



ROY HATTERSLEY

The most entertaining book that I have read for many a year  
Brian Walden, *Sunday Times*

LONG WALK TO FREEDOM



'Humane, dignified and magnificently unembittered'  
The Times

AGE OF EXTREMES  
The Short Twentieth Century 1914-1991



ERIC HOBSBAWM

'Magnificent' Independent  
'A masterpiece' Guardian

PATRICIA CORNWELL



'A superb writer' The Times  
'Cornwell is on magnificent form' Evening Standard



OSWALD'S TALE

'Almost half-a-century ago Norman Mailer commenced his writing career with a masterpiece. Now he's done it again'  
Allan Massie



LITTLE BROWN

## A life beyond newsprint

DJ Taylor is both beguiled and enraged by autumnal collections of journalism and lectures

### Belles Lettres

There are certain brands of literature whose very survival, like that of the oryx or the manatee, seems a matter for wonder and congratulation. The reprinted "middle article", the hardbacked cheer-up stuff from the broadsheet centre pages, the celebrity lecture series, even the meditative compilation of "books that have served me well" – one had thought them all dead beyond recall. Somehow, though, with Christmas upon us and the festive tills a-jingle, such trifles precariously endure.

Having laboured through Lynne Truss's relentlessly chipper novel *With One Lousy Free Packet Of Seed* last year, I approached *Making The Cat Laugh* (Hamish Hamilton, £10.99) with the gravest apprehension. In fact this collection of "Single Life" columns from *The Times* and elsewhere turns out to be a pleasant surprise. If Truss's accounts of a petrified spinster existence spent in front of the television in South London have a life beyond

newsprint, it is because of the slight edge behind their habitual self-deprecation. Some quintessential "English" properties are on display here – the flat, the cat, the jokes about cuisine for one. Underneath, though, lies a sharp sense of missed opportunities and life lived at one remove. In case this sounds unusually tedious, Truss is often very funny; even the cat-fixation – usually a kind of graveyard for the comic writer – seems narrowly tolerable in her practised hands.

At any rate Truss's recycled musings have worn rather better than those of her *Times* colleague Bernard Levin. Working out why so one dislikes the pieces in *I Should Say So* (Cape, £16.99) is a fascinating exercise. It is not that Levin chooses the wrong subjects or approaches them in the wrong way, for he has a fine line in moral indignation; it is not even that he isn't funny, for he frequently is. In the end, it is simply because of his overweening conceit. Like the late Beverley Nichols, whose style he increasingly begins to approximate ("I have a message for whichever of the saints is on doorknocking duty at the Pearly Gates tonight..."),

there is a sense that Levin's only real subject is himself. The best bits are the obituaries, even if they tend to come garnished with surfeits of Levin, the worst hits, the A-funny-thing-struck-me pieces, in particular an essay entitled "What's in a word?". Mr Levin's thoughts on the late Kurt Cobain will also seem unreasonably funny to anyone under the age of 40.

Hugo Williams's columns, collected under his TLS masthead *Freelancing* (Faber £14.99) are much better value. For once the subtitle – "Adventures of a Poet" – gives a good idea of the book's contents. The astonishingly youthful-looking author (53 going on 35) has been living the life of the vagrant literary man ever since he left school in 1960 and turned up on the doorstep of Alan Ross's *London Magazine*. There follows a lively round of creative writing classes, festivals and bookish to-ing and fro-ing. For all the warmth of Williams's literary reminiscences – he even manages to rekindle some interest in the charred sticks of bygone Soho – some of the best pieces leave the literary ghetto altogether. "A short bad film about violence", for example, is an unsparing

account of family squabbling, while the tribute to Tara Browne, the "lucky man who made the grade" from *The Beatles' A Day In The Life*, is a potent evocation of Swinging London.

Terry Waite's *Footfalls In Memory* (Hodder £14.99) is very much a companion volume to *Taken On Trust*, his best-selling autobiography. Stuck in his solitary prison cell, and starved of books, Waite kept himself sane by trying to remember his favourite pieces of literature. The resultant anthology is a reasonably interesting trawl through an idiosyncratic Christian library, with autobiographical introductions. Although there are no surprises, it's nice to get a complete version of McGonagall's ode to Shakespeare, not often enough reprinted.

Margaret Atwood's *Strange Things: The Malevolent North In Canadian Literature* (Oxford, £15), originally delivered as the Clarendon lectures in Oxford, is a treat. Concentrating on the North and its representation in poems and prose, Atwood is particularly good on the ill-fated Franklin expedition of the 1840s and its cannibalisation by later generations of Canadian writers for their own mythical and

political ends. Subsequently taking in Grey Owl, Robert W. Service (the creator of Dan McGrew) and Alice Munro, Atwood's characteristic subtlety survives the journey from lecture hall to printed page. It's a pity she couldn't have found space for Jack London, whose Yukon tales knock most Frozen North writing into a cocked hat.

Rather less interesting are Nadine Gordimer's lapidary reflections on *Writing And Being* (Harvard, £11.95), previously delivered as the Harvard Charles Norton Lectures in 1994. While Ms Gordimer generally talks a great deal of sense – a quality not always displayed by Nobel laureates – her remarks about the writer's relationship to the human beings who form the source of their characters are sometimes a tiny bit obvious. She is better on her set books – Mahfouz, Achebe, Oz – and best of all on her South African upbringing and the impulses that led her to write. An odd ghost hangs over these accounts of the writer's pot-shots at a repressive state – reading them it is impossible not to think of the late Ken Saro-Wiwa, the very latest example of Art's ability to confound the despots.



# Escapes

INDEPENDENT WEEKEND SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 1995

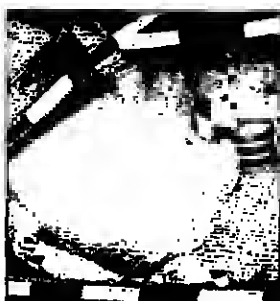
country



## INSIDE STORIES

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Our weekly guide to shows to see and places to go  
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Kathleen Evans, 78, runs the small Hampton Loade ferry across the River Severn with her sister, Lilian James, 83. Photograph: Newsteam

## Who will pay the ferryman?

Britain's last inland ferries are operated by a handful of determined amateurs. By Clive Fewins

**B**ryan Rogers, 63, worked for three years with a wheelbarrow moving 50 tonnes of mud and gravel from shingle banks and the riverbed to build the low jetties to enable him to run his one-man ferry operation across a muddy coastal creek in Suffolk.

In his first full season this year he reckons he rowed about 200 passengers - his dinghy takes two at a time - across the 70yd-wide creek. After paying his insurance and local authority registration fees and taking depreciation of his craft into account he reckons he lost about £300.

Fortunately, Mr Rogers is not too worried. He retired to rural Suffolk aged 60 after being a director of several companies, sold his car, bought a rowing boat and decided that his prime retirement task would be to reinstate the ferry across Butley Creek near the village of Orford. It last operated in 1920.

"I reckon this has been a ferry site for 600 years," he says. "My wife and friends think I'm a little mad, but I believe running the ferry is a worthwhile contribution to the local community. People say it is a ferry to nowhere but it is used by coastal walkers and birdwatchers. A trip up the creek is a long journey for me - but I have got a paddle."

Throughout the summer months Bryan Rogers sits beside the creek, repairs the mud and gravel jetties, which are under constant assault by the ebb and flow of the tide, and occasionally goes crabbing. When a customer turns up he charges £1 to row them to the other side.

In the winter he operates the ferry on demand, walking the half mile to the water along a field path from his home in the village of Boyton, the other side of the creek from Orford. During the winter months he urges walkers to phone

him in advance and let him know roughly what time they will be beside the creek and in need of his services.

Mr Rogers's enterprise is one of the very few new inland ferries introduced in the past few years, according to Brian Margetson. A Bedford-based structural engineer, aged 40, Mr Margetson has for the past four years been researching and recording all the estimated 110 inland ferries in England and Wales. Next year he intends to move on to Scotland.

"Since the war the general pattern for ferries has been one of decline, although there have been more encouraging signs recently," he says. "The reasons vary. In many instances bridges have replaced ferries. But one of the other main reasons for the decline is the dislike of walking nowadays. You often have to walk to get to a foot ferry and so few people seem prepared to take to their feet."

One of the most colourful inland ferries is East Anglia's last, and England's smallest car ferry, which carries two vehicles over the river Yare at Reedham, on the B1140 between Beccles and Acle.

"For many years the ferry did good business," says the licensee of the ferry, David Archer, who owns the flat-bottomed vessel and the ferry rights which he inherited from his father, who bought the pub and the ferry in 1949.

"However, with the completion of the Norwich southern bypass in 1992, drivers sometimes find it easier to drive the 25 miles from Acle in the north to Beccles or nearby Loddon in order to avoid the ferry queues, which can be very long in summer. Fortunately, the ferry is still just viable but I am having to watch the situation closely."

If the ferry were to disappear it would bring great inconvenience to people living in surrounding villages and would mean the disappearance of a colourful

landmark in the lowlands between Norwich and Great Yarmouth.

"At least there seems little chance of the ferry being replaced by a bridge," Mr Archer says. "The last time a bridge was recommended was in a 1949 Ministry of Transport report - 'Ferries in Great Britain'. We are still waiting for the bridge."

In Essex the ferry across the River Colne downstream from Colchester had been out of action for nearly 40 years before being revived by a band of volunteers in 1991. The Wivenhoe Ferry Trust now operates an April to October service in a motorboat that will seat 12. Twenty-five volunteers operate two-man crews on a rota basis on two routes, Wivenhoe to Rowledge (eight minutes) and Wivenhoe to Fingringhoe (two minutes).

Rod Smart, the founder chairman, says: "The service is popular with cyclists as well as walkers and shoppers, for whom it means avoiding an 11-mile drive via the road bridge at Colchester. We manage to break even and are even thinking of expanding the service next year."

A few miles round the coast near Felixstowe things have not been so flourishing. There the ferry from Old Felixstowe to Bawdsey, which was operated by three generations of the Brinkley family, closed briefly this spring when Robert Brinkley decided to give up the ferry in favour of fishing.

"It was a great shame because this year the Brinkleys celebrated 100 years of being ferryman across the Deben estuary," says Robert Brinkley. "My grandfather Charles lost a hand when he was young and had a hook fitted in its place. Staff at the now closed Ministry of Defence radar establishment across the water at Bawdsey, whom we used to ferry to work, named one of the devices they invented Brinkley's Arm."

In June the ferry was taken over by Peter Weir who is optimistic that he can make it pay. "Between June and September I took more than 9,000 people, many with bicycles, over in my 20ft open launch," he says. "It cost them 50p a time for the two-and-a-half minute crossing. A lot of walkers and cyclists now use the Suffolk heritage coastlines, so hopefully I should be able to keep going."

On the other side of the country near Bridgnorth, Shropshire, it is many years since the Hampton Loade ferry made a profit for its operators. Kathleen Evans, 78, and Lilian James, 83, who are sisters, run the small rope ferry, which is driven by the current, across the River Severn at a crossing point reckoned to have been in use since the early 17th century and that has been in their family for 38 years. Although it is a labour of love rather than a commercial enterprise, the sisters, who were brought up at the nearby Unicorn Inn, have plans for the crossing to remain in the family when they become too old to work it.

"It is a way of life. We run it in all weathers except very high water," says Mrs Evans, who keeps a constant lookout for customers on the other bank from her sitting-room window which overlooks the crossing point.

The ferry is now independent of the pub, but pubs and ferries often go together. "The reason is quite simple," says Mr Margetson. "This is because rivers like the Severn and the Wye are fast flowing and unpredictable. It was not always safe to cross and so travellers in the past needed somewhere to stay in times of bad weather and wait for the river level to drop or the flow diminish. Once a waterside inn was established it was natural that the licensee should double as the ferryman. Fortu-

nately the tradition often continues."

At Symonds Yat on the Wye the two foot ferries are owned and run by Ken Rollinson, who also owns the pubs on either side. Crossing is only safe when the river is not running too fast as both crossings are rope ferries operated by himself, his son Peter or one of the barmen. The flat-bottomed boat is propelled manually by the ferryman, who pulls on the plastic-coated cable suspended overhead.

And on the Thames at Bahlock Hythe, to the west of Oxford, where the river can also be quite fast-running, the licensee of The Ferryman Inn, Peter Kelland, does his best to keep the flat-bottomed outboard-powered 12-seater going throughout the year. He reopened the ferry three years ago after a seven-year closure. Until 1965 it was a car ferry which could take three vehicles at a time.

"The best hope for small foot ferries - there are only three inland car ferries in England and Wales - is that they will manage to hold their own," Brian Margetson says. "On the Thames near London the foot ferry at Hampton, Middlesex, closed this autumn because the person running it could not make it pay, but earlier in the year another one, five miles up river at Isleworth church, reopened after many years. However, it is a non-profit-making service."

"Like village shops, it is very often a case of being run by the active newly retired and other community-spirited people. I should like to start an organisation to help these people keep in touch with each other, so that perhaps they can work together with the public to save ferries that are under threat for one reason or another."

Brian Margetson can be contacted at 8, West Street, Rushden, Northants NN10 0RT (01933 56963).

### A little local trouble

A weekly round-up of rural rumpuses

**T**he quiet Derbyshire village of Coton-in-the-Elms has fallen foul of the flowerpot police. This summer, the village came third in the East Midlands Village-in-Bloom competition by decorating its grass verges with flower pots made out of concrete pipes. The competition over, the Parish Council made the mistake of applying for a licence for the pots. Four months later the County Council replied, saying the pots were a hazard to motorists, an obstacle for maintenance workers and would have to be removed.

Mr Roy Pritchard, chairman of the Parish Council, said: "I think we have paid the penalty for going through the official channels... It is absolutely stupid, especially when other villages have got exactly what we've got and we are the only ones being challenged. We are going to fight it - we are not removing the pots." The row continues.

The charms of the village of Flaxton, near York, have been threatened by interference from a

different quarter. The roots of three mature trees - a beech, a horse chestnut and a sycamore - on the village green have been damaged by the over-zealous attentions of Yorkshire Water.

The company had to dig a trench for a water main across the green, and instead of leaving the recommended six metres between the trench and the trees, they left one metre from the beech, 1.4 metres from the chestnut and 3.4 metres from the sycamore. As a result some of the roots were severed, which could weaken and even kill the trees. The company pleaded guilty to three offences of wilfully damaging trees and were fined £700, with £270 costs.

More than 24 tonnes of curdled milk blocked an A-road near Dorchester, Dorset, this week after two wheels fell off a tanker and it overturned. A police spokesman said that the driver was uninjured but "the smell at the scene was horrendous".

## All you have to do, say the know-alls, is shut the birds up securely at night, and stop worrying. Nonsense! Reynard is a determined and resourceful predator

**M**uch rubbish has been written in recent weeks about how easy it is to protect free-range chickens from foxes. All you have to do, say the know-alls, is shut the birds up securely at night, and stop worrying. Nonsense! Reynard is a determined and resourceful predator, and if the chickens really are free-range - on the loose, in the open, rather than confined to a big run - he will get some of them sooner or later. Never mind that we shut ours up with the greatest care every evening; still the numbers keep being whittled down.

Our fowl are particularly vulnerable, because we live on the side of a hill, separated from the wood above only by a couple of sloping grass fields. Foxes often sit in the open during the day, shamelessly fancying the selection of substantial dinners parading about below them. They have all the time in the world to choose their moment - and whenever they do pounce, it is



DUFF HART-DAVIS

sod's law that they get not one of our superfluous young cockerels, but a precious laying hen.

Luckily daylight attacks are at worst sporadic. We go for weeks without one, then suddenly get several in quick succession. One of the worst spates occurred not long before our daughter's wedding: I was sitting in the kitchen with the Rector, discussing details of the service, when I

heard a tell-tale screech-up in the garden. "Sorry!" I cried. "Got to deal with a fox." Snatching up a rifle, I ran out, shot the raider - which sure enough had killed a chicken on the lawn - and returned to our discussion. The Rector, good man that he is, did not turn a hair.

Yet if daytime visits are intermittent, nocturnal patrols are unceasing. Whenever I kill a rat I leave it out in a field, secure in the knowledge that it will have gone by morning. If we want to dispose of meat that has gone off, or superannuated bones, they too go out, and vanish. From the faultless efficiency of the scavenger service, it is clear that sweepers come past every night.

Occasionally they make mistakes. When I found a quince dumped half way up the paddock, pitted by tooth-marks, I could only conclude that a fox had scurried it out of the orchard and carried it some distance before deciding that the

taste was not all it should be.

More often, though, the aim is all too accurate. Eggs left uncollected vanish overnight, and our most recent major casualty was a speckled hen, huddled and white, which took against roosting in the barn, and perched instead on a beam in an open-fronted shed. Night after night, just as it got dark, we caught her and transferred her to safety. Then one evening we forgot. At 1am we were woken by an awful death-scream, and in the morning there was only a trail of feathers to show where she had been carried off down the lane.

Fox-pressure being what it is, we were dismayed when our solitary Bramah - our champion hen, she of the furry feet - once again went broody, and opted to incubate a nest in the same open-fronted shed, on top of a stack of hay-bales. Twice before this year she had sat successfully, but both times she spent the 21 days of dangerous immobility inside a

secure coop, coming out at intervals for food and drink.

This last time my wife made her a beautiful nest in the coop, but again and again she marched off to her preferred eminence. There she was, a literally sitting target, protected only by the fact that incubating birds lose most, if not all, of their scent.

The only reinforcement we could give her was a barrier of Renardine, the age-old stink-bomb, now available as an aerosol. I should not care to say what it is made of (and nor, apparently, do the manufacturers). The effect is of well-matured tiger's or wolf's piss. The can depicts cats, dogs, rabbits and so on fleeing in all directions, and I do not blame them, so devastating is the stench.

Whatever it is, it has done its stuff. The Bramah has survived, and batched off safely. Her brood amounts to only a single yellow chick, but once again, she has triumphed against heavy odds.

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# Four letters to put off buyers: UPVC

There's nothing like rotten old windows to put off buyers. But think twice before installing new ones.  
By Anne Spackman



The old and the new: The capital cost of double glazing when compared with the energy savings per year may take 25 years to repay. Photos: Jane Baker

The phone rings at around 7pm. "Mrs Burgess?" asks an unknown voice. "Yes," I answer, suspicious of any stranger using my married name at that time of night. "I'm ringing from Try Your Luck Home Improvements to let you know that we are offering free quotations on new doors and windows..." What they are offering is always the same: UPVC units or 1930s frames in an area dominated by Victorian and Edwardian sash windows.

If you want to replace or repair a period window you have to scour the small ads for a specialist or try your local joiner. It is a frustrating business, but it may be worth it in the long run. According to a survey carried out by Knight Frank & Rutley, nothing puts buyers off a house more than replacement windows.

Windows are the most prominent features on the face of a house, dominating its external appearance. The survey showed that buyers who wouldn't blanch

at a new kitchen or bathroom balk at the idea of replacing windows. Given the cost of doing it properly, they may be very wise.

One leading agent is currently selling a six-bedroom Victorian house with a good garden in a popular part of the Home Counties. This is the kind of house purchasers are queuing to buy, yet they were invariably put off by the picture windows. One potential purchaser went as far as getting a quote for replacing them all. It came in at over £25,000.

It is easy to see why some people have opted for plastic. UPVC windows need very little maintenance, do not warp and are cheap. They are also, normally, double-glazed, a feature which is rising up the list of buyers' expectations. It shouldn't be, according to John Fidler of English Heritage. He says people who want to cut their heating bills would do better to invest in draught-proofing or a heavy set of curtains. "The energy experts at the Building Research Establishment say that double-

glazing is not effective," Mr Fidler said. "The capital cost of double glazing when compared with the energy savings per year may take up to 25 years to repay."

The "greenest" house builders go for triple glazing, but they put it in wooden frames. This is partly because it is more ecologically sound and partly because they believe wood is better. Scandinavians, the Scandinavian firm that specialises in energy-saving new homes, uses a high quality softwood timber from Sweden for its triple-glazed windows. "The wood is far better than anything you can get in England apart from oak trees," said Mike Mapston, the technical director.

He added that they got a higher efficiency rating using wood than UPVC, partly because of the quality of the glazing and partly because of the air-tight seal between the window frame and the house. But aesthetics and environmental awareness were also part of the equation. "Timber has been shown to be the most

environmentally friendly material there is," Mr Mapston said, "and in our houses, it looks right."

Most people prefer wooden frames for aesthetic reasons. Tony Salter put in new French doors at the back of his Edwardian terrace in Dulwich, south east London, using the Original Box Sash Window Company. "They made them exactly as they had been originally," Mr Salter said. "They even found a firm in America that produced the particular type of patterned glass. The doors were one of the main factors when we came to sell the house. They tipped the scales in our favour."

The Original Box Sash Window Company was started in 1984 by John Rose, who saw a gap in the market. Mr Rose had been made redundant from an architectural practice and was selling double glazing. "People were saying it was a shame they couldn't have their box sashes done," Mr Rose recalls. "There was no service except the odd corner joiner."

His company now employs 70

people from its base in Windsor. They produce near perfect replicas of a property's original windows, but with double glazing and their own draught and dust exclusion system, Sashseal. This kind of work does not come cheap. It costs roughly £1,000 to replace one full sash window.

For even older properties the number of experts available decreases with the centuries. My colleague Duff Hart-Davis recently described replacing some windows in his 16th-century Cuswold stone farmhouse. He had the good fortune to come across Michael Waddingham, an architect who has developed a very slim double-glazed window in a black metal frame with antique catches. With the walls of Duff's farmhouse more than two feet thick and rotten lintels needing to be replaced, the bill for six windows has been £20,000.

If your house is old, however, it may be possible to get an improvement grant for such costly but beautiful alterations.

## Where to get help

Many period houses are in Conservation Areas. The local authority conservation officer is a good source of free advice on local craftsmen and grants and has powers to stop ugly alterations.

Most towns or counties have a historical society. Michael Waddingham found the one in Stroud, Gloucestershire to be an astonishing source of knowledge.

If your home is listed you will need Listed Building Consent for window alterations.

**The Original Box Sash Window Company**, The Joinery, Unit 10, Bridgewater Way, Windsor, Berks SL4 1RQ; 01753 858196.

**The London Crown Glass Company** supplies glass for period buildings. Its customers include the National Trust and English Heritage; 01494 871966.

**Ventrola**, based in Harrogate, but with franchises elsewhere, specialises in renovating and draught-proofing old windows; 01423 567004.

**John Fidler of English Heritage** is organising a conference, "Framing Opinions", at Fort Brockhurst, Hants, in February. Call 01705 580068.

## Househunter

Oucherotte, near Dijon, France



Number One Railway Cuttings is a line that still takes tourists by steam train past the front door. The only other way to get there is in an all-weather vehicle. It has four rooms plus a shower, a water well, septic tank and half an acre of land surrounded by wooded hills. Heating is by wood, cooking by wood and gas and lighting by paraffin lamps. A generator, water pump and electric saw are included in the negotiable asking price of FF97,000 (£13,000). Contact In The Sicks 01434 381404.

## For What It's Worth

The eminently sensible Scottish practice whereby the seller rather than the purchaser of a property carries out a structural survey is being recommended by agents south of the border for properties in poor condition. The Surrey based agents Curchods says it speeds up the sales process and gives buyers less room to negotiate the price down. Executors are generally more willing to see the virtues of the scheme than people selling their own home, according to Curchods' senior partner Andrew Dewar. He is selling a three-bedroom Victorian terrace in Guildford, needing total refurbishment, for £65,000 rather than the normal £95,000 because of the work revealed by a full set of structural reports. "The vendors agreed it was important to attract only those people who have a real interest and the financial ability to undertake a lot of work," Mr Dewar said.

## Who's Moving

Nick van Hoogstraten, the American producer of the forthcoming West End show *The Fields of Ambrosia*, has rented a flat in St John's Wood, London. He took the two-bedroom flat in Hamilton Terrace the day after Chestertons put it on the market for £350 a week.

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## gardening



Honey fungus: it lurks in the soil and pounces on the sick and elderly  
Photograph: Brian Carter / Garden Picture Library

# Do you control your garden, or does it control you?

Leaving the garden to its own devices leads to many discoveries, but eventually you have to show it who's boss. By Anna Pavord

sometimes wonder whether I'm driving the garden or whether the garden is driving me. I don't think, by nature, I'm a very bossy person ("Dream on," said our oldest daughter with heavy emphasis when she saw what I'd written) and I like the notion that the garden might have its own ideas about what it should be doing in certain places and seasons.

Its ideas are frequently better than mine. Flowers, by self-seeding in places where you would never have dreamed they would survive, tell you a great deal about themselves. But there comes a moment when a patch is out of kilter. You suddenly feel an overpowering urge to take it by the scruff of the neck and sort it out. It has gone too far down the road of self-determination.

This has happened with a bit of the garden called the round border, though it isn't round, but egg-shaped. It was originally made to mirror the shape of an old apple tree whose branches spread over it. It was also the site of an even older garbage dump, so that rather than being flat, it was mounded up in the centre. The soil, being full of cinder, drained beautifully. That is a treat here, where heavy, sticky clay is the norm.

Almost as soon as the bed was made

and planted up – predominantly with blues and yellows – the apple tree, its centrepiece and raison d'être died of honey fungus, but by then a 'Bobbie James' rose was rampaging over it. We cleared away some of the outlying twiggy areas of the tree, then left the bulk of it to prop up the rose. Later, the rose died of the same disease and the skeleton tree blew over in a gale.

By the time that little mess had been cleared up, the border looked like a battlefield, but it gave a good excuse to reinforce the rest of the planting: lavender, the narrow-leaved sage 'Hidcote', the dark-leaved lobelia and the tender perennial *Felicia pappi*. Set out as mere sprigs in the late spring, these spread rapidly to cover about two square feet with dense bright green almost succulent foliage and a long succession of daisy flowers, bright blue with yellow centres.

The biggest things left in the border after the apple and its attendant 'Bobbie James' had collapsed were the shrub rose 'Frühlingsgold' and a *Phlomis chrysophylla*. The *Phlomis*, which comes from the Lebanon, is an odd looking thing, with lime-green felted leaves and, in June, whorls of hooded yellow flowers which emerge from the axils of leaf and stem. It is

more compact than *Phlomis fruticosa*, the well known Jerusalem sage, and slightly less hardy. The rose grew in an elegant fountain-like way to about seven feet, keeping its stems out of the way of the plants underneath. The flowers were semi-double, creamy gold, richly scented and came in a rush in late May and June with only a half-hearted repeat flowering later on.

You notice I speak of the rose in the past tense. That, too, has suddenly given up the ghost. Honey fungus again, I suspect, which will lurk forever in this border, waiting to attack any shrub that is old or ailing. I don't lie awake at night worrying about it. Honey fungus is like pneumonia. If you are young, healthy and vigorous, you will shake it off. If you are old, frail and already suffering from some other problem, it will shake you off.

Roses are particularly prone to attack. So are apple trees, chamaecypariss, Leyland cypress (hooray!), witch hazel, privet, cherries, rhododendrons and weigelas. So those are the things that I won't be planting in the border again. But, having taken the rose out, I realised that while I wasn't looking, a lot of other things had been going on there that shouldn't have been. The *Phlomis* had become too big; so had

the grey-leaved teurcium that had looked so fragile and tentative when I first put it in.

They had completely shaded out and killed the foliage that had been such a feature of the border when I first planted it. The agapanthus didn't seem to be flowering as well as they should, either, and the very pretty daylily *Homocallis citrina*, with long, narrow scented trumpets of yellow flowers, had given up under the encroaching canopy of the teurcium.

The fact that the grey-leaved shrubs were doing so well was probably due to the excellent drainage – they would rot anywhere else in the garden – but they had suddenly become obnoxious rather than a delight. For ages you go on saying to yourself, "That shrub's doing very well." Then one morning you suddenly realise that in fact it has got above itself. You have to get into the driving seat and put the patch back on course.

But, given that both shrubs are on the teeter side, should I take action now, or do the sensible thing and wait until spring, when a harsh winter might have done half the job for me? Although I am itching to get out there and hack away, I think I had better wait. A whole series of mild winters

has undoubtedly helped these two get to the overpowering size they are now, but I'd hate to lose them altogether. Cutting back stimulates fresh growth and now is not the time to be encouraging that.

Without the 'Frühlingsgold' that spread to take over some of the space first occupied by the old apple tree, the border now is without a central focus. I'd like to put in another tree, but it would be suicidal to try an apple or even a crab apple with the honey fungus sitting there insidiously. I read somewhere that wood infected by honey fungus grows in the dark, like the mushrooms we used to see in the Dominican rain forest. I wish I'd known that before. I would have saved the old apple wood and lined it along the path to the wood shed, which is as black as pitch.

If not a crab apple, then probably a thorn. That is what I am thinking about at the moment. *Crataegus x lavallei* to be precise – small, dense, naturally mop-headed, with glossy leaves, excellent fruit that persists for a long time through winter. It won't do anything to reinforce the blue and the yellow, but it won't get in the way either, as the redness will come at a time when pretty well everything

under it has given up for the winter.

That is another reason for wanting a tree that peaks at the low ebb of the year. Laburnum would be spectacular, but I'm not very fond of it and the flowers come when there is plenty else to look at in the border. It would overpower it, too.

I rescued some old bearded iris from the first planting and they enjoy the warm, gritty site. So do the grassy-leaved *Iris sibirica*, which has smallish flowers just like fleur-de-lis. This is the iris you often see in Dutch flower paintings. 'Heavenly Blue', an old variety, is the best of the ones in my garden. It is supposed to prefer moist soils to dry, but thrives nonetheless. The border gets well mulched in late winter and *Iris sibirica* seems to like that.

In another part of the garden it grows in semi-shade, though it does not flower quite so freely in those conditions. You do not need to split and replant as frequently as you do with bearded iris. Only when the centre of the clump has died out completely do they need attention. Then you drive a spade into the clump to detach the best growths round the edge and replant them in soil that has been refreshed with bonemeal. They look good with hostas and ligularias.

## CUTTINGS



The best thing to do with your trimmer is throw it out

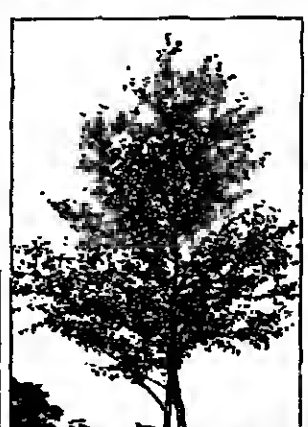
We are now in the middle of National Tree Week. Ponder on the thought that trimmers are responsible for more tree deaths than any other single factor. Vandalism is impotent weaklings compared with the savagely efficient trimmer, and not a lot noisier either. In a matter of seconds, a trimmer can girdle the base of a tree, stripping off the outer layers of the trunk which are the tree's life-

lines. Food and drink are carried up to the branches and leaves through an intricate plumbing system which lies just underneath the bark. If this is damaged, the tree dies. Hand weed round the base of trees and mulch the area with muck or compost. Instead of worrying about the Amazonian rain forest, take steps to save a few English trees instead. Take your trimmer to the scrap-iron

merchant. They are hideous, noisy, destructive, bullying machines.

The price for keeping a trimmer should be a donation to the International Tree Foundation (formerly Men of the Trees). You can contact them at Sandy Lane, Crawley Down, West Sussex RH10 4HS (01342 712536). And have you ever thought how many insects you are slicing up with that whirling, indis-

criminate, length of nylon? Think Buddhist. It may be you there one day with your head about to be chopped off.



In National Tree Week, worry about our own trees, rather than those in the Amazon basin

Vivienne Luke of Herbaceous Books has recently published her autumn catalogue of second-hand gardening books, usefully divided into subject areas: Bulbs, Corms and Tubers (usually my first port of call in any second-hand book dealer's catalogue as I am always trying to find a tulip book I haven't got), Wild Flowers, Cacti, Garden Design.

There are 20 different categories including, of course, Herbaceous Plants where you will find Shirley Hibberd's *Familiar Garden Flowers* published in 1870 (price £28). Those who seek applause by crying up herbaceous weeds and crying down bedding plants will receive only "the plying smile that is bestowed on the well-meaning fanatic." That was a rare misjudgement on Hibberd's part.

Herbaceous Books is at 15 Westville Avenue, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 9AH. (01943 602422).

## WEEKEND WORK

Weekend Work is going into hibernation for the winter; no more nagging this season about staking, mulching and dead-heading. I even feel guilty myself when I read it.

Meanwhile, attend to terracotta pots. Those standing in saucers of water should be taken out of them. Pots are less likely to crack open in icy weather if the compost is well drained.

Plant roses, fruit trees and new hedges. Order seeds in the hibernated interval that stretches between Christmas and

New Year. Include at least three things you have never grown before.

Keep house plants dryish and potted bulbs dampish. Clear out the greenhouse and, if you are going for the solid-gold, hallmarked halo, clean and oil all gardening tools. Weekend Work will return at the beginning of March.

## gardening

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# How safe is your car?

Safety, not sex-appeal, is the selling-point for the Nineties, but can you tell the essential features from the gimmicks? By Gavin Green

**S**afety sells. Whereas the Eighties were all about hot bodies and 0-60s, cars are now supposed to protect your health more than promote your image. Car makers' ads are full of arcane expressions to convince us of their piety and their cars' protectiveness. So we've examined the most-promoted safety features. All are useful, but some are a great deal more so than others. The higher the star rating the more vital the feature.

#### Crumple zones/safety cages \*\*\*\*\*

All new cars have them, which is a major reason why they are much safer than old ones. New cars are designed to absorb as much of the impact in a crash as possible through their crumple zones - deformable structures at the nose and tail of the vehicle, which include engine bay and boot, front and rear wings and bumpers. The more rigid structure immediately around you, the safety cage, should fend off whatever nasty has penetrated the cushioning extremities of the car.

Generally, the newer the car the more effective its crumple zones, as hi-tech computer design has improved the art enormously. The advances are particularly notable in small cars: a new Fiat Punto, for instance, will be much more protective in a crash than a 10-year-old Fiat Uno, despite having similar dimensions.

Nonetheless, the bigger the car, usually the better. In a head-on accident, the heavier car's mass works to its advantage: the other car will decelerate more savagely. Plus extra metal in front and behind means you've got more crumple zone than the guy in the little supermini. The strongest cars still tend to be German or Swedish. They've been besotted by safety longer than say, the Italians or the Japanese. A second-hand Mercedes or Volkswagen, then, is likely to be safer than a second-hand Fiat or Nissan.

#### Anti-lock brakes \*\*\*\*

These greatly increase the driver's chance of avoiding an accident. Now fitted as standard to most luxury cars and increasingly offered as an option on cheaper cars.

An electronic brain ensures that the wheels never lock, no matter how hard you stamp on the brakes. This means you retain some steering control, and also that - in dry or wet weather - you'll stop in less distance. Mind you, anti-lock brakes, or ABS, can't defy the laws of physics: if the surface is really slippery you still won't stop.

#### Collapsible steering column \*\*\*\*

Essential if a manufacturer is to pass the mandatory 30mph bead-on impact test. The steering columns in old cars tended to spear their drivers through the chest, whereas modern cars' columns collapse in severe impacts. Mind you, the steering wheel remains, and, unless it's cushioned by an air bag, remains one of the biggest killers in a crash.

#### Dual circuit brakes \*\*\*\*

Again, mandatory. All cars have two hydraulic brake circuits, which feeds the pressure that you've applied to the brake pedal through to all four brakes. If one fails you can still stop, even if you have to press harder.

#### Seat belts \*\*\*\*\*

Mandatory in all new cars sold here, both for front and rear seats. A three-point belt is better than a lap belt, as fitted to some older cars and in the middle of most rear seats. Recent Volvos, Saabs, BMWs and Renaults have three-point belts in the middle of the rear seat.

Pre-tensioners are increasingly common - they tighten the belt in an impact, compensating for the stretch in a belt's webbing. Vauxhall has made them standard in all its cars. They are worthwhile, although pre-tensioned belts often have longer anchorage stalks, which can make fitting child seats awkward.

#### Air bags \*\*\*\*

The latest safety buzz term, and increasingly fitted as standard to cars. Some cars have passenger airbags, too. The air bag is no more than a fabric cushion, folded inside the steering wheel (or, for the passenger, inside the dashboard where you'd expect to find a glovebox). In an accident, a small explosion instantly inflates the bag. Your head hits the bag rather than the steering wheel or the dashboard. Air bags also cushion your chest.

Air bags were developed partly because American states were unwilling to legislate for the compulsory wearing of seat belts (citing the same individual freedom that enables you to buy a gun in the Land of the Free). They're not as effective as seat belts, but worthwhile as an added protective measure.

#### Side impact bars \*\*

Most crashes tend to involve the front or back of cars which is where the crumple zones, seat belts and air bags all come in useful. There is clearly less protection at your side - just a door between you and the Transit that's jumped the lights.

New cars, designed from the outset to have side impact bars, will offer more side protection than a car without them. But, owing to the sales advantage conferred by offering "side impact bars" in ads and brochures, some makers have retrofitted them to older models. In some cases, they're probably worse than useless.

#### Safety pedal box \*\*

The latest safety aid, introduced on the new Vauxhall Vectra. As air bags and seat belts have increasingly protected the chest and head, so injuries to other parts of the body - especially legs - have increased. The most common type of leg or foot injury is inflicted by the pedals. In the new Vectra, the entire pedal assembly swings out of the way in a bad accident.



A safety test on the Rover 800 series. In a crash situation, a small explosion sets off the air bag, which takes no more than 40 milliseconds to inflate fully. It is worthwhile as an added protective measure but it is not as effective as a seat belt

#### road test

### Ford Scorpio TD estate



For all its outlandish looks up front, the rear half of Ford's Scorpio Estate is almost the same as the old model, give or take a few plastic mouldings. But the estate does share some of the mechanical refinements that have made today's Scorpio saloon so much more civilised than its predecessor, including more supple suspension and an engine sound more effectively banished from the cabin.

The engine itself is not great. Ask it to pull briskly from low speeds, and you are met with the equivalent of a yawn. But, once stoked up, it cruises in a relaxed, long-legged manner which compliments the safe if slow-witted handling. But, unless fuel economy overrides considerations of pace and serenity, you would enjoy life more with the identically-priced 2.9-litre, 12-valve V6 Scorpio.

Imitation-wood dashboard excepted, the Scorpio has a welcoming interior with squiggly comfortable seats and impressive legroom. The class of a Mercedes, BMW or Audi estate is lacking, but then it costs a good deal less. The cheapest of the three versions, tellingly named Executive, costs £19,145, and even the ultimate Ultima undercuts most German-badged rivals at £21,760.

John Simister

#### One previous owner

Charles Hart, Operations Director Northgate Holdings. "I drive about 55,000 miles a year and am on my fourth, new-generation Scorpio Estate - an Ultima, which is top of the range and much underplayed by Ford; performance in this model is fairly electric. I like the looks - futuristic and bold - although people do tend to stare at you at traffic lights."

#### Specifications

Ford Scorpio Ghia TD Estate, £20,350  
Engine: 2,500cc, four cylinders, turbo diesel, 115hp at 4,200rpm. Five-speed gearbox, rear-wheel drive. Top speed: 116 mph; 0-60 in 11.4 seconds. Fuel consumption 28-33mpg.

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Fermanagh BT94 2JN</p> <p>Tel/Fax Vivienne 01368 388792</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>JL 0001</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0076</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7008</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0002</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0077</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7009</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0003</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0078</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7010</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0004</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0079</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7011</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0005</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0080</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7012</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0006</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0081</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7013</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0007</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0082</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7014</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0008</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0083</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7015</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0009</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0084</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7016</td> 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<tr> <td>JL 0096</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0171</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7103</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0097</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0172</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7104</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0098</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0173</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7105</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0099</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0174</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7106</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JL 0100</td> <td>£100</td> <td>HW 0175</td> <td>£125</td> <td>HJ 7107</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> </table> <p>Other numbers available Hours of Business 9am - 5pm</p> <p>MARKET RESEARCH 33 DAISY HILL DRIVE, CHORLEY PR9 9NE</p> <p>MS INTERNATIONAL Cars for Sale</p> <p>SAAB SAAB IN WARWICKSHIRE, offer the full range of new Saabs and undoubtedly the largest selection of superior used Saabs in the Midlands. Linn Garage Ltd: (0825) 422221.</p>	JL 0001	£100	HW 0076	£125	HJ 7008	£155	JL 0002	£100	HW 0077	£125	HJ 7009	£155	JL 0003	£100	HW 0078	£125	HJ 7010	£155	JL 0004	£100	HW 0079	£125	HJ 7011	£155	JL 0005	£100	HW 0080	£125	HJ 7012	£155	JL 0006	£100	HW 0081	£125	HJ 7013	£155	JL 0007	£100	HW 0082	£125	HJ 7014	£155	JL 0008	£100	HW 0083	£125	HJ 7015	£155	JL 0009	£100	HW 0084	£125	HJ 7016	£155	JL 0010	£100	HW 0085	£125	HJ 7017	£155	JL 0011	£100	HW 0086	£125	HJ 7018	£155	JL 0012	£100	HW 0087	£125	HJ 7019	£155	JL 0013	£100	HW 0088	£125	HJ 7020	£155	JL 0014	£100	HW 0089	£125	HJ 7021	£155	JL 0015	£100	HW 0090	£125	HJ 7022	£155	JL 0016	£100	HW 0091	£125	HJ 7023	£155	JL 0017	£100	HW 0092	£125	HJ 7024	£155	JL 0018	£100	HW 0093	£125	HJ 7025	£155	JL 0019	£100	HW 0094	£125	HJ 7026	£155	JL 0020	£100	HW 0095	£125	HJ 7027	£155	JL 0021	£100	HW 0096	£125	HJ 7028	£155	JL 0022	£100	HW 0097	£125	HJ 7029	£155	JL 0023	£100	HW 0098	£125	HJ 7030	£155	JL 0024	£100	HW 0099	£125	HJ 7031	£155	JL 0025	£100	HW 0100	£125	HJ 7032	£155	JL 0026	£100	HW 0101	£125	HJ 7033	£155	JL 0027	£100	HW 0102	£125	HJ 7034	£155	JL 0028	£100	HW 0103	£125	HJ 7035	£155	JL 0029	£100	HW 0104	£125	HJ 7036	£155	JL 0030	£100	HW 0105	£125	HJ 7037	£155	JL 0031	£100	HW 0106	£125	HJ 7038	£155	JL 0032	£100	HW 0107	£125	HJ 7039	£155	JL 0033	£100	HW 0108	£125	HJ 7040	£155	JL 0034	£100	HW 0109	£125	HJ 7041	£155	JL 0035	£100	HW 0110	£125	HJ 7042	£155	JL 0036	£100	HW 0111	£125	HJ 7043	£155	JL 0037	£100	HW 0112	£125	HJ 7044	£155	JL 0038	£100	HW 0113	£125	HJ 7045	£155	JL 0039	£100	HW 0114	£125	HJ 7046	£155	JL 0040	£100	HW 0115	£125	HJ 7047	£155	JL 0041	£100	HW 0116	£125	HJ 7048	£155	JL 0042	£100	HW 0117	£125	HJ 7049	£155	JL 0043	£100	HW 0118	£125	HJ 7050	£155	JL 0044	£100	HW 0119	£125	HJ 7051	£155	JL 0045	£100	HW 0120	£125	HJ 7052	£155	JL 0046	£100	HW 0121	£125	HJ 7053	£155	JL 0047	£100	HW 0122	£125	HJ 7054	£155	JL 0048	£100	HW 0123	£125	HJ 7055	£155	JL 0049	£100	HW 0124	£125	HJ 7056	£155	JL 0050	£100	HW 0125	£125	HJ 7057	£155	JL 0051	£100	HW 0126	£125	HJ 7058	£155	JL 0052	£100	HW 0127	£125	HJ 7059	£155	JL 0053	£100	HW 0128	£125	HJ 7060	£155	JL 0054	£100	HW 0129	£125	HJ 7061	£155	JL 0055	£100	HW 0130	£125	HJ 7062	£155	JL 0056	£100	HW 0131	£125	HJ 7063	£155	JL 0057	£100	HW 0132	£125	HJ 7064	£155	JL 0058	£100	HW 0133	£125	HJ 7065	£155	JL 0059	£100	HW 0134	£125	HJ 7066	£155	JL 0060	£100	HW 0135	£125	HJ 7067	£155	JL 0061	£100	HW 0136	£125	HJ 7068	£155	JL 0062	£100	HW 0137	£125	HJ 7069	£155	JL 0063	£100	HW 0138	£125	HJ 7070	£155	JL 0064	£100	HW 0139	£125	HJ 7071	£155	JL 0065	£100	HW 0140	£125	HJ 7072	£155	JL 0066	£100	HW 0141	£125	HJ 7073	£155	JL 0067	£100	HW 0142	£125	HJ 7074	£155	JL 0068	£100	HW 0143	£125	HJ 7075	£155	JL 0069	£100	HW 0144	£125	HJ 7076	£155	JL 0070	£100	HW 0145	£125	HJ 7077	£155	JL 0071	£100	HW 0146	£125	HJ 7078	£155	JL 0072	£100	HW 0147	£125	HJ 7079	£155	JL 0073	£100	HW 0148	£125	HJ 7080	£155	JL 0074	£100	HW 0149	£125	HJ 7081	£155	JL 0075	£100	HW 0150	£125	HJ 7082	£155	JL 0076	£100	HW 0151	£125	HJ 7083	£155	JL 0077	£100	HW 0152	£125	HJ 7084	£155	JL 0078	£100	HW 0153	£125	HJ 7085	£155	JL 0079	£100	HW 0154	£125	HJ 7086	£155	JL 0080	£100	HW 0155	£125	HJ 7087	£155	JL 0081	£100	HW 0156	£125	HJ 7088	£155	JL 0082	£100	HW 0157	£125	HJ 7089	£155	JL 0083	£100	HW 0158	£125	HJ 7090	£155	JL 0084	£100	HW 0159	£125	HJ 7091	£155	JL 0085	£100	HW 0160	£125	HJ 7092	£155	JL 0086	£100	HW 0161	£125	HJ 7093	£155	JL 0087	£100	HW 0162	£125	HJ 7094	£155	JL 0088	£100	HW 0163	£125	HJ 7095	£155	JL 0089	£100	HW 0164	£125	HJ 7096	£155	JL 0090	£100	HW 0165	£125	HJ 7097	£155	JL 0091	£100	HW 0166	£125	HJ 7098	£155	JL 0092	£100	HW 0167	£125	HJ 7099	£155	JL 0093	£100	HW 0168	£125	HJ 7100	£155	JL 0094	£100	HW 0169	£125	HJ 7101	£155	JL 0095	£100	HW 0170	£125	HJ 7102	£155	JL 0096	£100	HW 0171	£125	HJ 7103	£155	JL 0097	£100	HW 0172	£125	HJ 7104	£155	JL 0098	£100	HW 0173	£125	HJ 7105	£155	JL 0099	£100	HW 0174	£125	HJ 7106	£155	JL 0100	£100	HW 0175	£125	HJ 7107	£155
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**Sell your home for as little as £40 per advertisement... Saving Over 50% On Our Normal Advertising Rates\***

**The Sunday Package**  
Property advertising in the Independent on Sunday is now available in 'The Sunday Package'.

An advertisement appears in the award winning Independent on Sunday Review. The advertisement appears in the module format shown here. The 40 words of copy are complemented by a colour photograph of your home.

**The Cost**  
The more Sunday packages you buy, the cheaper they become.

1. Sunday Package costs £60 (1 advertisement at £60)
2. Sunday Packages cost £100 (2 advertisements at £50 each)
3. Sunday Packages cost £120 (3 advertisements at £40 each)

\*Normal Property advertising rates: 1 advertisement £150

**It Works!**  
"We sold our house through the Independent on Sunday when, after 2 years, other means had failed us. With only 3 insertions in the Independent on Sunday we received 47 enquiries, resulting in 23 viewings and 3 offers!"

We were absolutely delighted with the level of response and have since recommended the Independent on Sunday to many of our friends and colleagues."

Ms Ann Jones  
May 1995

Fill in this coupon and send payment with a colour photograph and up to 40 words of copy to: Property Team, Classified Advertising, 15th Floor, Independent Newspaper, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Office Available To Private Advertisers Only. Deadline for receipt of copy is the Tuesday 12 days prior to Sunday publication. Commercial advertising package available on request.

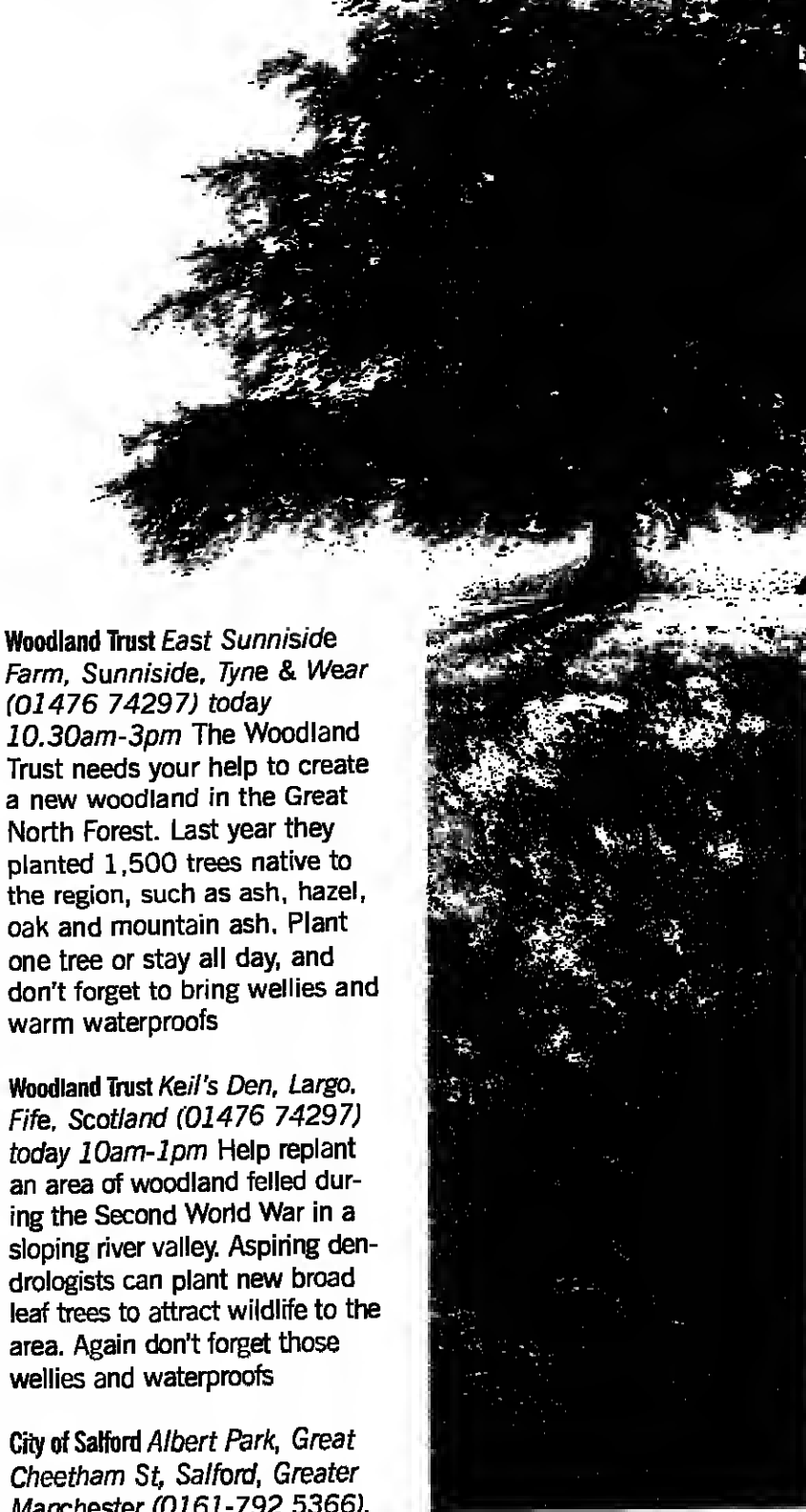
NAME..... ADDRESS..... TELEPHONE (daytime).....

I require ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 (tick appropriate box) Sunday packages at a total cost of £..... Please enclose a cheque for this amount made payable to 'The Independent' or alternatively fill in your Visa/Access/Amex/Diners Club details: CREDIT CARD NO..... EXPIRY DATE..... SIGNATURE.....

**For advice or more information, call 'The Property Team' on 0171-293 2343 or 0171 -293 2302**



## Site of the 1850 National Trade Fair



**Woodland Trust Keil's Den, Largo, Fife, Scotland (01476 74297)**  
today 10am-1pm Help replant an area of woodland felled during the Second World War in a sloping river valley. Aspiring dendrologists can plant new broad leaf trees to attract wildlife to the area. Again don't forget those wellies and waterproofs

**City of Salford Albert Park, Great Cheetham St, Salford, Greater Manchester (0161-792 5366).**  
**Sun 10am-4pm** An old-time community Tree Fest takes in events for the whole family. Displays include an exhibition of tree surgery, woodland fungal foray walks, and woodland birds of prey demonstrating their prowess. Kids will be able to let rip on a bouncy castle and ride shire horses.

**British Trust for Conservation Volun-**  
**teers Llangernyw Church Yard,**  
**Clwyd, Wales (01244 810989)**  
**today 11am** A chance to cele-  
brate the granddaddy of Yew  
trees – this one is 4,000 years  
old which makes it the eldest  
tree in Wales and one of the old-  
est living things in the world

**Moore Nature Reserve Lap Wing Lane, Moore, Warrington, Cheshire (01925 444689) Sun. 10am-dusk** Extravaganza with lots of tree-related activities and hands-on events. Watch a charcoal burner making charcoal or demonstrations of walking-stick making, using materials on site. The RSPB will be building bird boxes, while the County Ranger Service will be making bird feeders to provide local tits, fly catchers and tree creepers with a snug residence. There are about 1,300 trees to be planted by volunteers

**Cleveland County Council Three Horseshoes Pub, Cowpen Bewley, Cleveland (01642 530784) Sun 10.30am-12noon**  
100,000 new trees have been planted on a 250-acre site at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park over the last year. Tomorrow the public is invited to help plant about 200 new oak, ash pine and cherry trees along with a selection of shrubs on this infant woodland

# Things to do,


**In a League of their own**

One hundred years of Rugby League will be the focus of a new exhibition, "Gladiators and Thunderbirds", starting at Wakefield Museum this weekend. The timing of this centenary celebration is of particular significance, in the light of Rugby Union's recent endorsement of professionalism. Both codes may now be about to experience further evolution, but in the meantime this exhibition provides the perfect opportunity to learn how one national sport, Rugby Football, was ravaged by internecine conflict until a split became inevitable and Rugby League was born in 1895.

The exhibition looks at all aspects of the game, from the explosive issue of broken time (payments for players) which caused the breakaway of the Northern Union in 1895, to the ascent of the increasingly popular women's game. Moreover, players, amateur rugby league and supporters are all topics highlighted by the exhibition. Memorabilia will be on view including ancient international caps, jerseys and photographs from the 1930 cup final.

**Wakefield Museum, Wood St, Wakefield**  
(01924 305350); open daily to 28 Jan, free

**film**  
**WEST END**

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**CINEMA**  
RYAN GILBEY

Goldeneye Pierce Brosnan is set up for another two Bond movies this one is successful. Though not in the same league as *Gold*, this rip-roaring thriller certainly makes amends for the past two Timothy Dalton snoozefests, as the gags are worse than ever.

**DOIT DORES FOR DINNER**  
Rory Molla runs in the French Lanes, *Duchess Catherine Street*, WC2 (10/17-19) 50795x; 739 4441x | Covent Garden, Mon-P, 8.00, Sat 5.00 & 8.30, 14/3.00, 28-£18.50.

**FRAME THE MURDER**  
The musical of the hit film and TV series. *Cambridge/Earlham Street*, WC2 (10/17-19) 50801x | Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30, 14/3.00, 110-£25.

**FIVE O'CLOCK MADE**  
Musical celebration of Louis Jordan. *Albion St Martin's Lane*, WC2 (10/17-19) 17200x; 567 1111x | Lane Sq, Mon-Tu 8.00, Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.45, £5-£26.

**FURRY MONIE**  
Roy Cooney's latest comedy. *Doyle's Park St Martin's Lane* (10/17-19) 50776x; 300 4001x | Embankment, Mon-Sat 8.00, 13/3.00, 14/3.00, £5-£23.

**HOBBOSS'S CHOICE**  
Liz McQuinn in *Harold Brighams's Choice*. *Little Chatham Sq* (10/17-19) 494 5045x | Picc. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30, 17/3.00, ends 3 Feb. Di-£23.

**THE HUSBAND**  
Harold Pinter stars with Celia Hunt. *Cambridge/Fanton Street*, SW1 (11/17-30) 731x | Picc. Circ. Lates Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45, 13/3.00, 14/3.00, ends 2 Dec, 11/1-£22.50.

**MYSTERY**  
Revis of *Tony Johnson's* latest comedy. *Doyle's Park St Martin's Lane* (10/17-19) 51121x | Luccy Sq/Charing X, Mon-Sat 7.30 (11, Nov, 7.10), 13/7.3.00, ends 27 Jan, £5-£22.50.

**BROADWAY**  
Tom Stoppard's latest with Niamh Cusack. *Holborn Alleyway*, WC2 (10/17-19) 466 882x; 24250x | Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.30, 14/7.3.00, ends 1 Jan, 110-£25.

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS**  
Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of J.R. Prendergast's thriller. *Cambridge/Charing X* (10/17-19) 494 50801x | Luccy Sq, Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 8.15, 14/7.30, 17/7.3.00, ends 1 Jan, 110-£22.50.

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**THE**  
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**Mother**  
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**ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY:**  
*The Day*  
Sat. 10:30. Denis Potter's religious drama.  
Times 2:00 & 7:15  
*The Tenth Man*, Barbican Centre, EC2  
10/11/83, 8:15  
or Barbican Manxgate.

**OLIVER!**  
Jim Dale stars in Lionel Bart's musical.  
Lond. & Palladium Arge. H. Street, W.1 (10/11-  
12/83) 5:00-5:45  
or Lyric Theatre, Ctr. Mon-Sat 7:30,  
[10/11] 7:30, 11:15-1:15.

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**  
Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical.  
Lyric Theatre, Ctr. Mon-Sat 7:30, 11:15-1:15  
or Picc. In. Mon-Sat 7:45, [10/11] 7:30, 11:15-1:15

**PASSIONED COLD BLOOD**  
Musical parody of the cult TV series.  
Lyric Theatre, Ctr. Mon-Sat 7:30, 11:15-1:15  
or Picc. In. Mon-Sat 7:45, [10/11] 7:30, 11:15-1:15


**THE NEW ORLEANS STORY**  
Local history play.  
Hatchell Whitehall (10/11-30/11) 7:35 & 9:45  
[11/11] BR & Charming X, Tue-Thu 8:00, Fri &  
Sat 8:30 & 9:30, [11/11] 4:00, ends 18 Feb. & 22

**REPORT STARS LOVELY WHEELS**  
Lionel Barrymore's Oxford Street love story.  
Dorland Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2  
10/11-30/11 7:30 & 9:45, Sat. Mon-Sat 8:00, [11/11]  
4:00, ends tonight, 11:15-1:15

**THE SHAKESPEARE REPERT**  
Salford's Shakespearean repert.  
1 Endeavour Strand, WC2, 10/11-22/11 6:00-7:30  
& BR & Charming X, Mon-Fri 8:00, Sat 8:30 & 9:30  
[11/11] 4:30, 11:00-1:22-50

**STARRING EXPRESS**  
Lloyd Webber's hit-parade in a new musical.  
Apollo Theatre, Tottenham Court. SW1 (10/11-14/11)  
10/11 BR & Victoria, Mon-Sat 8:00 & 10:15  
11/11 4:00-1:22-50-120

**STARRING BOWLEND**  
Elaine Paige stars in Lloyd Webber's musical  
version of the Bible World.  
Apollo Theatre, Tottenham Court. SW1 (10/11-14/11)  
Mon-Sat 7:45, [10/11] 7:30, 11:15-1:22-40



**THEATRE**  
DAVID BENEDICT

**Courage As Diana Rigg**  
think this war has turned it of a flop." The evening, it is a tremendous success, as a salty translation to excellent success. Kent's directorates both heart and head.

**TAZARUS SIDES**  
Round Harwood's drama, WI (0171-369 1747) or Pic Ctr, Mon-Sat 7.30, 14/7 2.30, 17-22-41.

**THREE TALL WOMEN**  
Alice's acclaimed play.  
Albion's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (077-399 1730) or 867 1111 or Lake St, Tue-Sat, 8.00, 14/7 7.00, 15-16 Dec, 16 Dec, 19.50-22.50.

**WHAT WOULD KEELAND**  
Robert Bolt's historical epic.  
Merrmaid Puddle Dock, E10 (0171-286 2311).  
Rix or Blackheath. Last performance today.  
3.00 & 7.30, 21.50-54.50, 23.00, 24.00, 25.00, 26.00, 27.00, 28.00, 29.00, 30.00, 31.00, 32.00, 33.00, 34.00, 35.00, 36.00, 37.00, 38.00, 39.00, 40.00, 41.00, 42.00, 43.00, 44.00, 45.00, 46.00, 47.00, 48.00, 49.00, 50.00, 51.00, 52.00, 53.00, 54.00, 55.00, 56.00, 57.00, 58.00, 59.00, 60.00, 61.00, 62.00, 63.00, 64.00, 65.00, 66.00, 67.00, 68.00, 69.00, 70.00, 71.00, 72.00, 73.00, 74.00, 75.00, 76.00, 77.00, 78.00, 79.00, 80.00, 81.00, 82.00, 83.00, 84.00, 85.00, 86.00, 87.00, 88.00, 89.00, 90.00, 91.00, 92.00, 93.00, 94.00, 95.00, 96.00, 97.00, 98.00, 99.00, 100.00, 101.00, 102.00, 103.00, 104.00, 105.00, 106.00, 107.00, 108.00, 109.00, 110.00, 111.00, 112.00, 113.00, 114.00, 115.00, 116.00, 117.00, 118.00, 119.00, 120.00, 121.00, 122.00, 123.00, 124.00, 125.00, 126.00, 127.00, 128.00, 129.00, 130.00, 131.00, 132.00, 133.00, 134.00, 135.00, 136.00, 137.00, 138.00, 139.00, 140.00, 141.00, 142.00, 143.00, 144.00, 145.00, 146.00, 147.00, 148.00, 149.00, 150.00, 151.00, 152.00, 153.00, 154.00, 155.00, 156.00, 157.00, 158.00, 159.00, 160.00, 161.00, 162.00, 163.00, 164.00, 165.00, 166.00, 167.00, 168.00, 169.00, 170.00, 171.00, 172.00, 173.00, 174.00, 175.00, 176.00, 177.00, 178.00, 179.00, 180.00, 181.00, 182.00, 183.00, 184.00, 185.00, 186.00, 187.00, 188.00, 189.00, 190.00, 191.00, 192.00, 193.00, 194.00, 195.00, 196.00, 197.00, 198.00, 199.00, 200.00, 201.00, 202.00, 203.00, 204.00, 205.00, 206.00, 207.00, 208.00, 209.00, 210.00, 211.00, 212.00, 213.00, 214.00, 215.00, 216.00, 217.00, 218.00, 219.00, 220.00, 221.00, 222.00, 223.00, 224.00, 225.00, 226.00, 227.00, 228.00, 229.00, 230.00, 231.00, 232.00, 233.00, 234.00, 235.00, 236.00, 237.00, 238.00, 239.00, 240.00, 241.00, 242.00, 243.00, 244.00, 245.00, 246.00, 247.00, 248.00, 249.00, 250.00, 251.00, 252.00, 253.00, 254.00, 255.00, 256.00, 257.00, 258.00, 259.00, 260.00, 261.00, 262.00, 263.00, 264.00, 265.00, 266.00, 267.00, 268.00, 269.00, 270.00, 271.00, 272.00, 273.00, 274.00, 275.00, 276.00, 277.00, 278.00, 279.00, 280.00, 281.00, 282.00, 283.00, 284.00, 285.00, 286.00, 287.00, 288.00, 289.00, 290.00, 291.00, 292.00, 293.00, 294.00, 295.00, 296.00, 297.00, 298.00, 299.00, 300.00, 301.00, 302.00, 303.00, 304.00, 305.00, 306.00, 307.00, 308.00, 309.00, 310.00, 311.00, 312.00, 313.00, 314.00, 315.00, 316.00, 317.00, 318.00, 319.00, 320.00, 321.00, 322.00, 323.00, 324.00, 325.00, 326.00, 327.00, 328.00, 329.00, 330.00, 331.00, 332.00, 333.00, 334.00, 335.00, 336.00, 337.00, 338.00, 339.00, 340.00, 341.00, 342.00, 343.00, 344.00, 345.00, 346.00, 347.00, 348.00, 349.00, 350.00, 351.00, 352.00, 353.00, 354.00, 355.00, 356.00, 357.00, 358.00, 359.00, 360.00, 361.00, 362.00, 363.00, 364.00, 365.00, 366.00, 367.00, 368.00, 369.00, 370.00, 371.00, 372.00, 373.00, 374.00, 375.00, 376.00, 377.00, 378.00, 379.00, 380.00, 381.00, 382.00, 383.00, 384.00, 385.00, 386.00, 387.00, 388.00, 389.00, 390.00, 391.00, 392.00, 393.00, 394.00, 395.00, 396.00, 397.00, 398.00, 399.00, 400.00, 401.00, 402.00, 403.00, 404.00, 405.00, 406.00, 407.00, 408.00, 409.00, 410.00, 411.00, 412.00, 413.00, 414.00, 415.00, 416.00, 417.00, 418.00, 419.00, 420.00, 421.00, 422.00, 423.00, 424.00, 425.00, 426.00, 427.00, 428.00, 429.00, 430.00, 431.00, 432.00, 433.00, 434.00, 435.00, 436.00, 437.00, 438.00, 439.00, 440.00, 441.00, 442.00, 443.00, 444.00, 445.00, 446.00, 447.00, 448.00, 449.00, 450.00, 451.00, 452.00, 453.00, 454.00, 455.00, 456.00, 457.00, 458.00, 459.00, 460.00, 461.00, 462.00, 463.00, 464.00, 465.00, 466.00, 467.00, 468.00, 469.00, 470.00, 471.00, 472.00, 473.00, 474.00, 475.00, 476.00, 477.00, 478.00, 479.00, 480.00, 481.00, 482.00, 483.00, 484.00, 485.00, 486.00, 487.00, 488.00, 489.00, 490.00, 491.00,

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# ghter-bomber

£320,000 you could be the t airworthy aeroplanes in today (2pm) at Billingshurst, er (left) is estimated at qi chocolate and khaki camk in 1949, before Britain's ries sold to the Iraqis. It ies and Sixties. But it d was re-painted in the a variant of Hawker's Tem- nible than the familiar ks at Nor-

# On

The Earl's Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec



The National Museum of Photography, Film and Television's Action Replay revive one of their earliest pieces, *The Lumiere Brothers*. Companies from all

over Europe contribute pieces which include appearances by Pasteur, Einstein and of course the indispensable Abbess Hildegard of Bingen. On one level this is an opportunity to rediscover the delights of the Science Museum. More importantly, it offers the chance to see Thomas Crapper demonstrate his great- est invention, the syphonic flush toilet. Science Museum, Exhibition Rd, London SW7 (0171-938 8008) today & Sun, 11.30am-4.30pm

# places to go this weekend

Four wheels good, eight wheels embarrassing?

What has eight wheels, five doors and can be spotted regularly holding up the A30 in Devon? Yes, that most frowned-upon of British traditions, the caravan. It's time to throw out those ancient preconceptions about caravan drivers and discover the revelation that is the 21st-century mobile accommodation unit at the Leisure and Caravanshow. Altogether 150 exhibitors will be displaying their wares around the main feature of this year's revamped show: an eight-caravan holiday home village. Of course, in the world of caravan etiquette, you wouldn't be seen dead without an awning strapped to the side and, although size isn't everything, when it comes to wind, rain, shine and the neighbours, it certainly helps. So this year's show has a special awning feature, plus the chance to buy every accessory you could possibly need on your next pitch, along with a few you really don't. Competitions include the chance to win a Haven holiday and a brand-new caravan, plus the presentation of a green award to the most environmentally-friendly park in the country. And if that isn't enough to make you unhook the rusting piece of junk in your driveway and head straight to Earls Court for an upgrade, then maybe you should take that Mediterranean cruise after all... Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec



MILTON DUNN



## ROCK

Angela Lewis  
People Quality synth-dance hits I more from Mike Pickering and after Small, the M-people main- s. The rave-club favourites have flowed out since winning the curly Music Prize, so the seated ue choice is no surprise. & Sun, Royal Albert Hall, London



## CLASSICAL

Robert Maycock  
Hungarian fire and ferocity take over at the London Symphony Orchestra. Its Bartok series runs under the direction of the composer's illustrious present-day compatriot, Sir Georg Solti, with Kyung-Wha Chung the opening night's solo violinist. Sun, Barbican Hall, London



## DANCE

Louise Levene  
The Royal Ballet's strong mixed-bill kicks off with Balanchine's *Apollo* and *Duo Concertante* (danced by Bruce Sansom and Viviana Durante) and motors towards a strong finish with Ashley Page's inventive hit, *Fearful Symmetries*, led by Irak Mukhamedov. Royal Opera House

## enter

London  
The Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec

## literature

London  
The Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec

## auctions

London  
The Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec

## church

## services

## Sunday Next Before Advent

London  
The Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec

## theatre

London  
The Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec

## the country

## rt-upon-Avon

## RESPONSE THEATRE

London  
The Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec

## exhibitions

## comedy

## Cambridge

## London

London  
The Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec

## classical

## Chichester

London  
The Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec

## dance

## Bournemouth

## Southampton

## pop

## Bournemouth

## Bristol

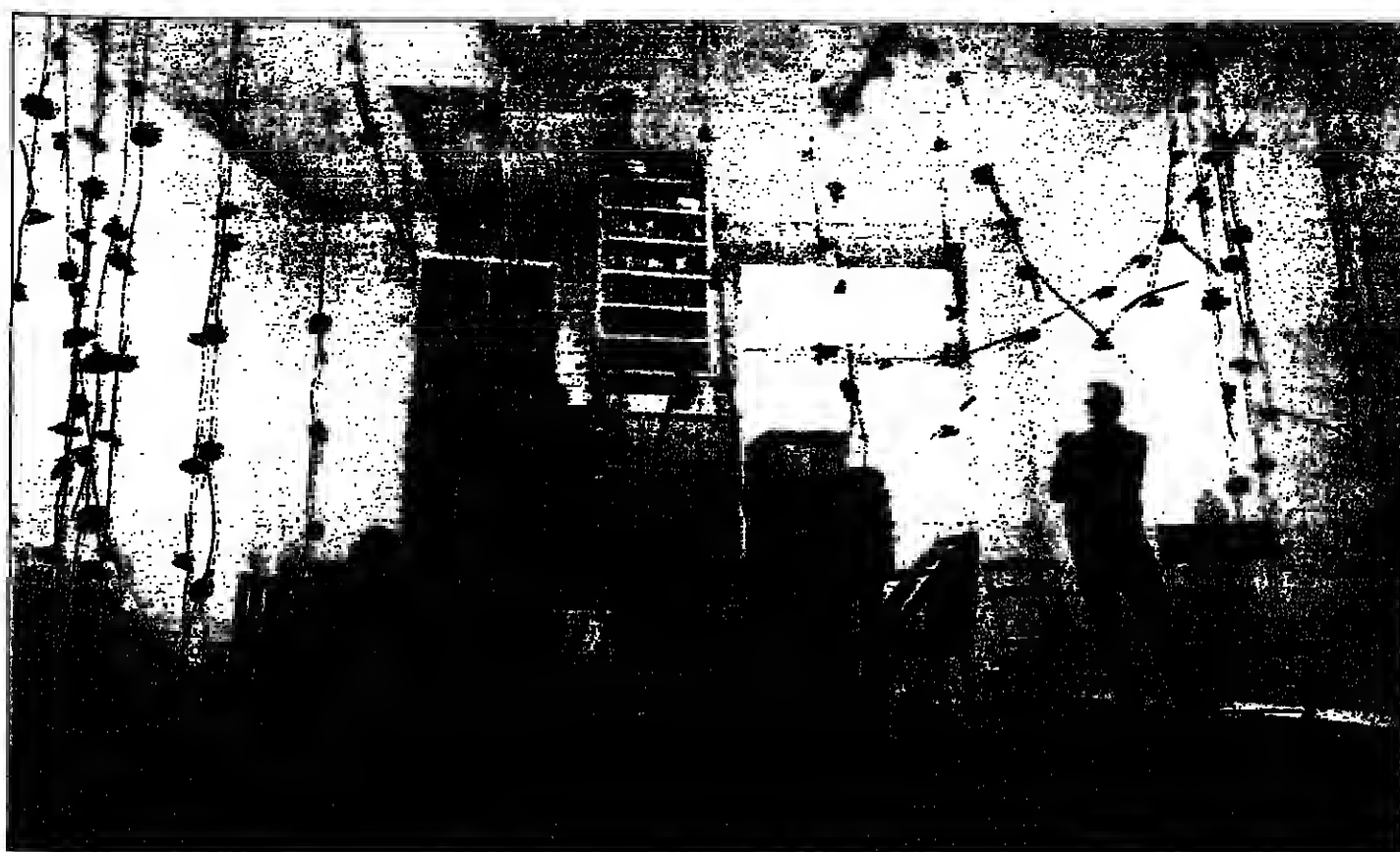
London  
The Earls Court, London SW5, 10am-7pm to 3 Dec







## You'll find the dead flowers on the first floor, madam



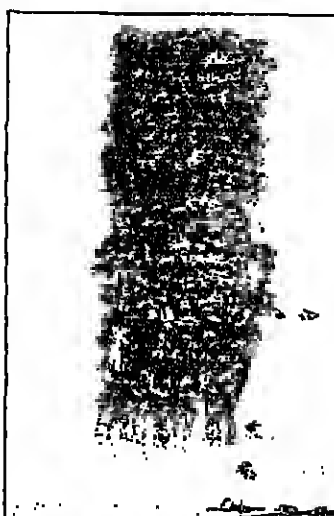
High Street shops are displaying the work of young artists to give themselves an edge. By Adrian Turpin

The life of an artist has a curious place in the public imagination. Unworldly, ethereal, unable to engage with society except through the filter of their work, in the minds of many people artists still live in the proverbial garret. They are the nearest thing the secular world has to saints and, as such, are meant to suffer the privations and reap the benefits of sainthood equally. What they are not meant to do, the traditional view has it, is dabble in commerce or make money. At least, not until they're very famous or very dead.

So what exactly is happening in the shops of London? Habitat, Emporio Armani, Nicole Farhi, Harvey Nichols, even Levi's, are paying artists to exhibit work on the sales floor. In itself that's nothing new. Art and shopping are old bedfellows. Indeed, in Japan no self-respecting department store is complete without its gallery. But where art has been displayed in British shops, it has often tended to be middle-brow, middle-class and middle-aged: £250 black-and-white photographs of Namibian tribespeople hanging in the café at Liberty's, sub-Howard Hodgkin abstracts, and the tepid watercolours and of Foyle's bookshop gallery in the Charing Cross Road.

Where Habitat and the other shops are breaking new ground, by contrast, is in making space for artists who are young, unconventional and drawn from the undeniably hip centre-ground of contemporary British art, the world of the Turner Prize and Damien "dead sheep" Hirst.

Anya Gallaccio is interested in decay. Last year, she coated the walls of a gallery in chocolate,



Where does art and shopping begin? Anya Gallaccio's installation used by Habitat to launch its new season (top) and her 'Door' (above) both make extensive use of gerberas. Photographs: Jane Baker/Maniscalco Milano

where it slowly decayed and assaulted the nostrils of visitors. A current piece of hers consists of 1020 scarlet gerbera placed between panes of glass where they slowly wilt. If there's a vision here, it's not one that you would necessarily associate with Habitat's aesthetic of elegant, practical affordable design. But on Tuesday a Gallaccio daisy chain, made from the same flowers, will go on display at the Tottenham Court Road store, where for the next month it will wither in a glass cabinet by the café, kitchenware on one side and household lighting on the other.

A few miles away at the King's Road branch, a huge picture by the minimalist painter Gary Hume

straddles the stairs up to the bedding department. It's a very decorative piece, out at all out of place among the soft furnishings with its delicate blues and almost cartoonish hands stretching across the canvas. But Hume is no run-of-the-mill interior decorator. "A custom-made candidate for the Turner Prize shortlist," one critic said about Hume's recent show at the ICA. And what's he considering doing next year? Designing a duvet cover for Habitat.

The Habitat painting is not Hume's first venture into the world of pure commerce. He recently appeared in some rather slick magazine ads for Hugo Boss, posing moodily, a task for which he was paid handsomely in designer-label clothes.

Admittedly, this isn't something that happens every day to an up-and-coming artist, but it does demonstrate two things rather well. First, how glossy and media-friendly contemporary art has become; and, second, how little fear the generation of artists that out of art school at the end of the Eighties (Hume and Gallaccio both left Goldsmith's in 1988, making them direct contemporaries of Damien Hirst) has of engaging with the commercial world.

With public-funding of galleries at an all-time low, and the Thatcherite spirit of entrepreneurship abroad, the class of '88 had to make its own breaks.

They benefited from beer companies with spare beer and property developers with spare warehouses—always, however, on their own terms.

Rather than wait for galleries to ask them, they put on their own exhibitions. Some even founded their own shops, from which the

move to working with established retailers doesn't seem such a big leap: just the latest in a long line of alternative venues. So, venture the words, "sell-out" or "compromise" to Gallaccio, and she starts to foam at the mouth: "What's the point of being so precious and starving? In my book, that's just stupid. No one's interested."

Sarah Staton—who earlier this month worked with Gallaccio on a private display introducing Habitat's new season to shop staff and fashion journalists—disputes any question of "selling out" equally forcefully: "If you're ever going to sell anything, you are entering the world of commerce."

"If someone like Saatchi buys your work, you're being supported by money he makes from advertising for the Conservative Party. It's all part of the same system, and I don't see why working with a shop is any different."

It's not hard to see what the shops get from these joint ventures. For a start it's a cheap way to a little "edge" to their image, a whiff of something fresh and alternative. As Gary Hume says: "Getting in a young artist would in most cases, I'd imagine, cost an awful lot less than hiring a top-class window-dresser."

Levi's, which for a year now has had a gallery in its flagship store in Regent Street, holds 12 shows a year, costing between £1,000 and £3,000 each, a drop in the ocean compared with, say, the £250,000 they would spend on a 30-second cinema commercial. Habitat has a bigger budget of around £50,000 for exhibitions and new commissions, but it is spread around the country. And Armani, which has regularly invited sculptors to show their work at its Brompton Road

shop, has no budget at all ("which is really annoying," says one of the artists working for Habitat. "I was really looking forward to being paid with an Armani suit").

Retailers are also, at long last, waking up to the fact that shopping is a leisure activity, quite likely the nation's favourite leisure activity. "I think the public is fed up with the stack 'em high, sell 'em cheap mentality," says the curator of the Levi's gallery, Paul Stamper. They want a whole experience. They want a bit of quality time.

As far as the visual arts are concerned, that "quality time" may be a tricky commodity for shops to deliver. Even if a store has a discreet gallery, far from the ring of cash tills and the roar of crowds, the melle of a shopping trip is seldom conducive to contemplation. Gallery owners need not sell up quite yet. But, as Habitat is so ably showing, the fact that art is in a shop doesn't mean it can't have a sense of adventure.

Gary Hume's exhibition of paintings at the ICA in London ends today (see offer below). The British Art Show, which includes work by both Gary Hume and Anya Gallaccio, is in Manchester until 4 February (0161-839 4444) then tours to Edinburgh and Cardiff.

### Gary Hume print offer

The first 15 Independent readers to take this page to the shop at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1, will receive 20 per cent off Gary Hume's silkscreen print, *The Polar Bear*, worth £295 (plus VAT). Readers with the page will also receive 15 per cent off selected books. The ICA is sponsored by Toshiba.

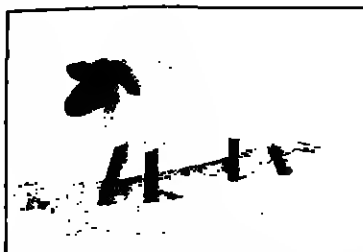


### bazaar

#### Good thing

Rocking lamb, £195

Rocking horses can be fortifying and uncomfortable. So how about this cuddly alternative, made with real sheepskin. It's handsomely made, and, crucially, the fleece can be washed. From the Colonial Trading Company, which sells hand-crafted but fun children's toys and furniture which will double as heirlooms. An upholstered chair and footstool cost £140, and fluffy toys start at £15. For catalogue and mail-order details, call: 01730 816536



#### Mad thing

Ze Brily, £39.99

Richard Hinton's feather covered free-standing lamps are literally fluffy balls of light. Buy them for boring office desks, or boring people. Alternatively, his fluffy on-the-wall lamps make kinky off-the-wall lamps for the boudoir. From Gill Wing, 194-5 Upper Street, N1 1RQ (0171-359 7697) or call Locomotion Design: 0171-538 8701 for stockists.



### Which...Christmas fair?

COGLESFALL, Essex Superior crafts, children's entertainments. Today and tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Marks Hall Estate (01263-734711). Admission £2.

DITCHLING, Sussex Locally made crafts, plus refreshments. Today and tomorrow, Turner Dumbrell Workshops, North End (01273-846338).

LONDON, Barbican Lots of events and sales from now till Christmas. This weekend it hosts Global Partnership, the UK's largest ever fair-trade Christmas market selling goods from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-6pm. Barbican Exhibition Halls, EC2 (0171-638 8891). £4.

Christmas Bazaar Stalls at Chelsea Old Town Hall sell treats including Camilla Guinness bed linen, Iranian caviar, Bella Figura lights, fine foods from the Teesdale Trencherman. Wednesday (29 Nov) only, 10.30am-6.30pm. Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, SW3. £2.

Creative First Retreat from Oxford Street into this upmarket crafts emporium. To 23 December, 10.15am-6pm. 30-31 St Christopher's Place, W1.

London Glassblowing Workshop Grand Christmas Open House and Sale of decorative hand-made vases and scent bottles, from £5 up, plus demonstrations, mince pies and punch. This weekend and next, 11am-5pm. 7 The Leather Market, Westcoast Street, London SE1 3ER (0171-403 2800). Free parking.

London Zoo The Zoobazaar, held on Tuesday and Wednesday (28 and 29 November), offers up-market stalls with tempting things like Provencal tablecloths, American stationery, découpage trays, needlepoint cushions, cashmere jumpers. Admission £5, in aid of the Aquarium. London Zoo, Regents Park, NW1 (0171-499 6227).

KNUTSFORD, Cheshire Gift fair in aid of St Ann's Hospice offers a one-stop Christmas shopping bonanza with more than 50 stalls. Thurs (30 Nov), 10am-4pm. At Taiton Park. Admission £2. Details on 0161-283 6600.

SHEFFIELD Christmas Crackers craft fair features copper clocks, hand-painted frames etc. Today to 6 Jan. The Ruskin Gallery, 101 Norfolk Street (0114 273 5299).

ST DONATS, Glamorgan A medieval barn full of Christmas gifts, with carol singers, mulled wine and roast chestnuts. Tomorrow 12 noon-6pm. Admission and parking free. St Donat's Castle, near Llantwit Major (01446 794848).



### AUCTIONS

Hitler didn't like him but the Koreans do: Egon Schiele nudes at Sotheby's this week

London's sales of Impressionist, modern and contemporary art have been overshadowed by New York's for nearly a decade. This month's New York sale totals for Impressionists and moderns rival those of the late Eighties boom.

Unlike London, New York is a flashy, in-your-face market: this month's \$26.9m paid at Sotheby's New York for Van Gogh's sumptuous but undemanding *Sous-Bois* was but a minor sensation.

Traditionally, the London salerooms are a repository for the more challenging con-

nectal art that appeals to Europe's more sophisticated—and less well-heeled—taste. Typical of London's Euro appeal this week: Sotheby's four paintings by the Austrian expressionist Egon Schiele—two contorted, aching nude studies, one est £300,000-£400,000, and two portraits. German expressionism, condemned by Hitler as degenerate, is another Euro favourite, snapped up by rich Jewish collectors and rich Koreans tutored by German art teachers.

London auctioneers are now itching to attract American buyers, encouraged by

some surprise results in the June sales. An American collector paid a record £485,500 in London for a vast, violent seascape by the living German artist Anselm Kiefer, revived at the 1980 Venice for his references to German wartime atrocities: while in New York, a Kiefer abstract, owned by Sylvester Stallone and flaunted on the cover of Sotheby's sale catalogue, failed to sell.

To add insult to injury, the same Christie's sale that produced the Kiefer record got a whacking £188,500 for a Warhol. But then, it was a portrait of a European, Joseph

Beuys. Sotheby's has been insinuating Warhols into its London sales for the past three years. This week, it is offering a Rothko, whether to tempt American or European buyers is not clear.

The American art that is making the biggest splash among European buyers is pop art. George Segal's alienated plaster figures, for example, seem to tickle the existential fancies of Germans and Belgians. Christie's has a Segal, an installation of the artist's studio with bewildered standing female (est £100,000-£150,000), not to mention a Warhol *Double Elvis* (£320,000-£380,000), and a sagging vinyl *Soft Medicine Chest* by Oldenburg (£80,000-£120,000).

London's sales are all "tight", in auctioneer's jargon: weeded down to about 50 lots of fresh-to-market, modestly estimated works, the run of the mill relegated to Part II sales. This is particularly striking in Sotheby's Impressionist Part I, full of small, jewel-like paintings such as Gauguin's *Femmes au Bord de la Rivière*, estimated at a mere £1.5m-£2m.

Point to ponder: which side of the Atlantic will carry off Brancusi's 11in bronze egg, est £1.2-£1.8m in Christie's Impressionist and modern Part I? It is titled *Le Commencement du Monde*. Starters, please?

Impressionist and modern: Christie's Part I Tues, Part II Wed. Sotheby's Part I Mon, Part II Tues. Contemporary: Christie's Thurs, Sotheby's Part I Wed, Part II Thurs. Impressionist, modern and contemporary: Christie's South Kensington Mon.

John Windsor



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Cumicinski, John W.	Knight, Laura	Manning, Alfred
Claessen, George	Langley, Walter	O'Connor, Robert
Devlin, Wynford	La Thangue, H.H.	Pearson, Lucien
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# Christmas: where to get away from it all

By Simon Calder

**S**anta stands tall. Seven feet high, the jolly red giant towers over a scrum of children playing around his outsize boots. Even in countries where Christianity is very much a minority sport, travellers find it hard to avoid Christmas festivities. Perhaps St Nicholas should be called Farther Christmas.

This particular figure of festive fun presently resides on a street corner in the firmly Hindu city of Jaipur, but these days his likeness pops up all over the place. St Nicholas could challenge St Christopher for the role of patron saint of travel. He is grinning hirsutely at me right now from the side of a coffee mug I won in an apple-ducking game at a Christmas party thrown by Buddhists in Thailand two years ago. The carols on that occasion were sung with enormous enthusiasm, but they need to hone their game skills or they'll find tourists grabbing all the prizes.

Like it or lump it, Christmas drives the travel business into a frenzy as we desperately strive to be moveable for the feast. Even an airline called Scrooge Airways or Air Humbug would fill all its seats in the third week of December. Travel operators take full advantage of our Yuletide yearning to be reunited with – or located as far away as possible from – our nearest and dearest. The more frantically you phone around travel agents in search of a flight, the more fares which you would dismiss as extortionate during the rest of the year acquire an aura of moderation. The same phenomenon benefits less fashionable airlines: Aeroflot becomes an attractive prospect when the Russian airline is the only way to reach Lapland or Lima.

Travelling on Christmas Day itself can enhance your humour. While many short-haul flights are cancelled, long-range ones operate as normal. Peak season ends at midnight on 24 December, and for the ensuing week fares are reasonable and availability good. Fly west to stretch the day: a trip to Tinseltown, California will extend your Christmas to 32 hours.

If your funds do not stretch to flying, you will find hitch-hiking easier on

25 December than any other day of the year. This is just as well, because almost all public transport in Britain closes down for the day. Even Eurostar is shutting up shop, with the last departure from Waterloo through the Channel Tunnel to Paris at 7.23pm on Christmas Eve and the first train back at 8.13am on Boxing Day. If you fancy a cut-price Christmas cruise, then the best option is the Poole to Sandbanks ferry in Dorset, operating 8am-6pm on 25 December.

You may, of course, be joining the pre-Christmas rush in order to find somewhere that is unlikely to be troubled by ruddy-nosed reindeer. Scrooge would be happiest in a country that is Islamic, or Marxist, or both. Libya would be ideal. Cuba used to be a sound second best, but the reforms introduced this year by Fidel Castro (in an outfit of revolutionary red, he'd make a passable Santa himself) mean kitsch Nativity scenes are on sale for the first time since the President abolished Christmas 30 years ago. The Orthodox nations of Ukraine or Russia could offer an unorthodox way to dodge the festivities: Christmas is not celebrated until early January, by which time you can have returned to the land of DIY warehouse sales.

If Turkey, Goose Bay (Canada) or plain old Brussels are off the menu this December, apply plan B. Buy your travel-related gifts from the selection below, get in a couple of old Judith Chalmers videos and the *Independent* Christmas travel quiz (to be published on 23 December), and make a New Year's resolution to book ahead for '96. Or dig deep into your stocking for some crisp and even £10 notes, and start chasing some of the many bappy returns at the bottom of Santa's flight case.

## Long haul

Controlling your Christmas spending may be easier in an all-inclusive resort, and the long-haul specialist Tropical Places (01342 825123) has secured some space in Kenya – departing from Gatwick on 17 December and returning in time for New Year's Eve. The price of 13 nights at the Turtle Bay Beach Hotel in Watamu is £919.

To spend Christmas with one in five of the world's population, Bridge the World (0171-911 0900) has availability on 16 and 20 December on BA's non-stop flights to Beijing. The price is a festive fair £420 return including tax. The same fare applies to Taipei.

Christmas is largely ignored in Japan, but a number of Buddhist "temple markets" take place around Tokyo in December, with crafts, antiques and junk on sale. The Japanese National Tourist Organisation in London (0171-734 9638) can provide full details of venues, and events such as the spectacle in Katagake on 10 December, when 200 naked youths will plunge into the Nagara River for purification.

## Europe

The P&O flagship *Oriana* is celebrating her first Christmas with a cruise departing Southampton on 22 December, and reaching Madeira in time for the New Year's Eve fireworks display. If you want to find out if Santa does funnels as well as chimneys, be warned that the vessel is fully booked, but P&O (0171-800 2222) is taking names on the waiting list. To make certain you reach Madeira, an alternative is a 12-night holiday departing 22 December with Cadogan (01703 332661), for £579 including flights from Gatwick.

For the first time this year, shops in Amsterdam are opening on Sundays in the run-up to Christmas. Amsterdam Travel Service (01992 456056) has packages to the city from a range of UK airports.

Finlandia (0171-409 7334) is offering one-night breaks to Lapland for £529 on 2, 9 and 22 December including bus and snowmobile hire. If you wish to lodge a post-Christmas complaint with Santa, a three-night New Year holiday in Lapland costs £699, departing 30 December.

Wallace Arnold (0113-263 6456) has some availability on its full-board coach holidays in Europe. Five-day trips departing on 23 December are available to Paris and the Champagne region (£299), Calais (£279) or the Belgian town of Turnhout (£279).

If the thought of the Christmas party season is as

daunting as the event itself, then take cheer that the year of the preposterously cheap package tour is not over yet. First Choice (0161-745 7000) has packages from Gatwick to Spain or Malta on 12 December, costing £99 for a week.

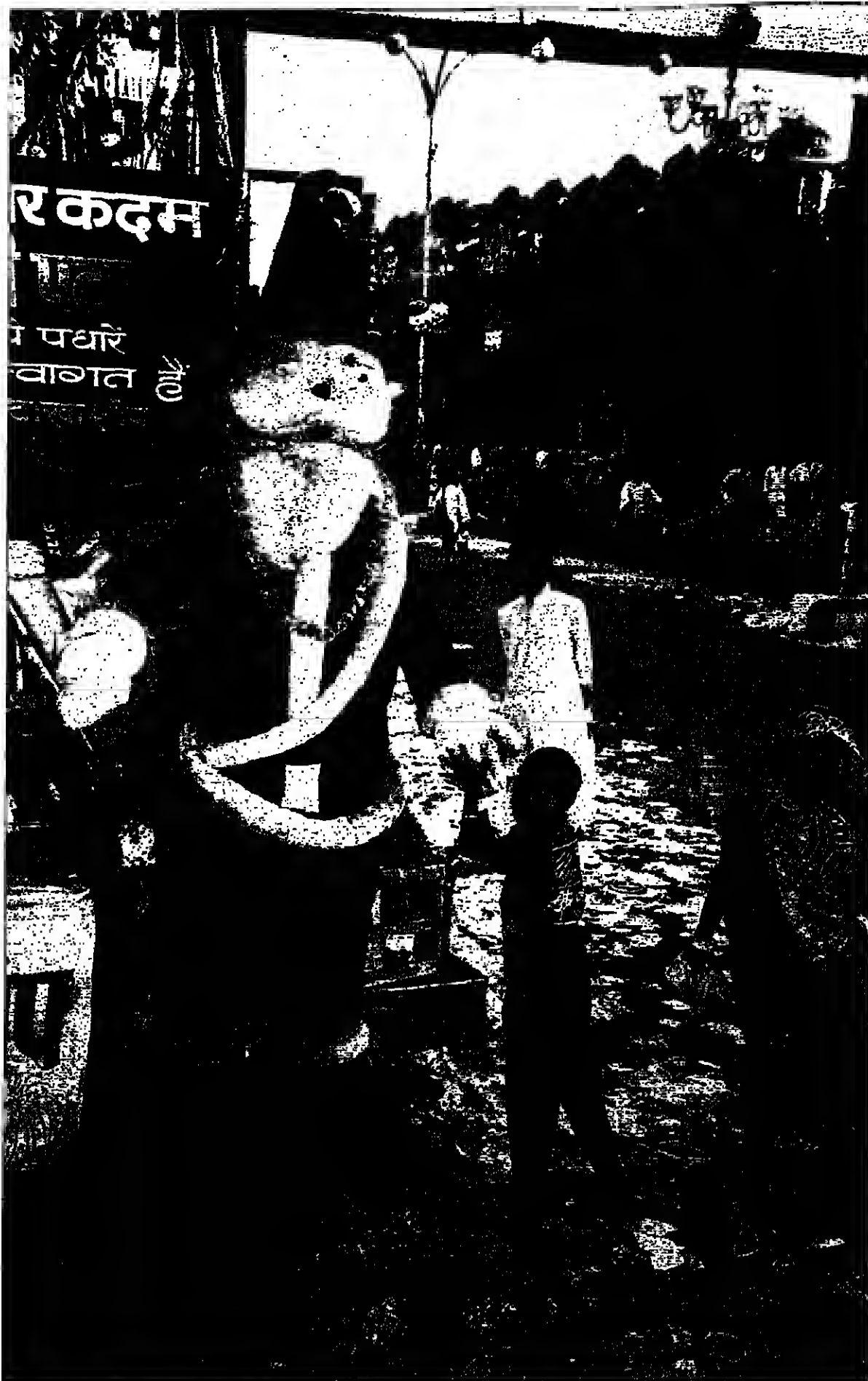
## Britain

"Stuff the Turkey" is the title of a week's walking holiday in the Peak District organised by Old Furnace Walking Holidays (01538 703331) starting on 23 December. "We're aiming the holiday mainly at single people, and want to show that going for a long walk and having a pub lunch is a perfectly good way to spend Christmas Day. We aim to make it a seven-day party", says John Higgins, the Walk Leader. The cost of £275 includes accommodation in guest houses, guided walks and minibuses.

Dukes Hotel in St James's, central London (0171-491 4840) has a charabanc outing to the Boxing Day race meeting at Kempton Park as part of its three-night luxury break, price £550. At the Leicestershire country house hotel of Stapleford Park (01572 787522), you can sample riding, falconry or clay-pigeon shooting on 26 December. The three-day holiday costs from £602 per person.

The YHA of England and Wales is offering Christmas holidays at 17 youth hostels. Three days in Matlock, Derbyshire costs £89 for an adult and £69 for under-18s. Bakewell is £4 cheaper per person, and includes a Boxing Day picnic at Chatsworth House; call the regional office on 01629 825850. Embury steam railway near Skipton, North Yorkshire (01756 794727) is one of several private railways that are running "Santa Special" trips before and during the holiday.

The Christmas in Britain programme from Shearings (01942 824624) offers holidays at resorts such as Flisgrou (five days, £253) and cities like Durham (five days, £304). The Queen's Speech is a central feature of these holidays. Humanist Holidays (01242 239175) organises holidays for agnostics and atheists. December places are full, but Easter bookings can be made in the New Year.



You'll have to go a long way to avoid the trappings of Christmas – further than the Indian city of Jaipur, for a start. Photo: Simon Calder

## PRESENTS FOR TRAVELLERS

Preparing for the worst is a prevalent theme among the festive offerings for travellers. Rob Ryan's book "Stay Healthy Abroad" (Health Education Authority, £6.95) outlines the animal, vegetable and mineral threats that reside beyond these shores. A similar precautionary note is sounded by the Streetwise map of Orlando (£2.95), which shows areas of the Florida city where mugging is a distinct possibility. Travellers venturing into still riskier territory may be grateful for a short-wave radio; the SW1 E from Sony (around £150) is the same size as a packet of cigarettes and potentially a lot better for you.

Should the object of your benevolence be the sort to get stuck up the Orinoco without a paddle, he or she may be grateful for your presence. Practical help for adventurers is available from Safariquip, which supplies a range of defensive measures from a money belt (£2.99) to a water filter (£54.99). British Rail no longer issues gift vouchers, presumably because demand was at best limited. But the international coach operator Eurolines (0990 143219) has just introduced gift vouchers in denominations of £10 and £20 – two of the latter would be more than enough for a London-Paris return for a

person aged under 26. Airlines do not sell gift vouchers, but they offer the next best thing: the Miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO), which looks like a ticket and may be used in full or part payment for a journey. It can be made out for as little as £5, though these days so small a sum will buy you only the departure tax on flights within Europe – and Kenneth Clarke may increase that in Tuesday's Budget. Giving someone an entire holiday as their Christmas present may seem a wonderfully generous idea, but you need to ensure that the recipient has a valid passport – the British Visitor's version

expires on New Year's Eve. Long-haul destinations may require visas, too, which could rather take the edge off the surprise. If travel has become just too arduous, the latest offering from Rough Guides may oblige. Devoted to those whose idea of surfing is strictly digital, the "Rough Guide to the Internet" (£5) can take you around the World Wide Web. And for those who feel it is better to travel vicariously than to arrive, a subscription to Wanderlust magazine costs £15. Safariquip: 01433 62032. Eurolines: 0990 143219. MCOs from any IATA airline. Wanderlust: 01753 620426.

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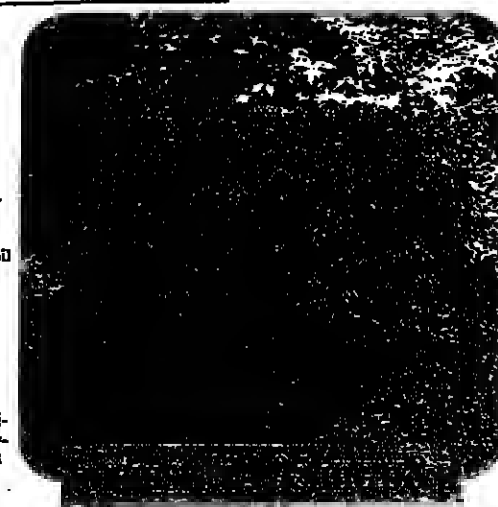
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**M**ost skiers who are planning to escape to the mountains for Christmas will by now have made their arrangements (as well as their excuses to those they'll be leaving behind). But for those who have left it late – and particularly for those who have not done it before – here is a guide to a successful Christmas on skis.

**What to expect:** Don't count on finding a particularly festive atmosphere in the resort; as in Britain, Christmas in the Alpine countries is more of an occasion for family gatherings than for communal gaiety. If you're going to an hotel, make sure you know what to expect. A constant round of parties, or nothing beyond crackers and paper hats? **Where to go:** Are you looking for excellent skiing or a Bing Crosby-style winter wonderland? If skiing is the priority the odds are you'll do best to a high resort in France or western Austria which will catch storms borne on the westerly winds.

Large-scale snowmaking is a comforting fallback in case we get one of those bright, cold, snow-free spells that were such a problem in the late 1980s. You should also look for trees that will offer some shelter if snow arrives in quantity. For a combination of all these attributes, Courchevel takes some beating.

## Snow's Up

By Chris Gill

If sleigh-bells beckon, you'll want evergreen trees rather than the bare slopes of Val Thorens or the dead-looking larches of Saas-Fee. And you'll want the pitched roofs of chalets rather than cuboid

apartments. Sleigh bells themselves are normally to be found only in low valley villages that present too high a risk of a shortage of snow. **What to take:** For families, Christmas presents the problem of presents. Maybe you're prepared to hump mountain bikes halfway across Europe; maybe not. If not, and you're in the market for a pricey chalet holiday, you may wish

to know that The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) will ship your presents out to your resort and back again. The only other bit of advice I would give to skiers accustomed to February holidays is to be prepared for extreme cold. Be careful about resorts that rely heavily on chair-lifts; mid-air rides can be very chilly. Late availability: Earlier this week many tour operators

still had Christmas holidays on offer. Examples: hotels or self-catering in Andorra with Panorama (01273 206531); chalets in Zermatt, Courchevel and Val d'Isère with Ski Scott Duon (0181-767 0202); Courchevel with Finlay – £50 off (01835 830562); Val d'Isère or Méribel with The Ski Company (0171-730 9600); Méribel with Snowtime (0171-433 3336).

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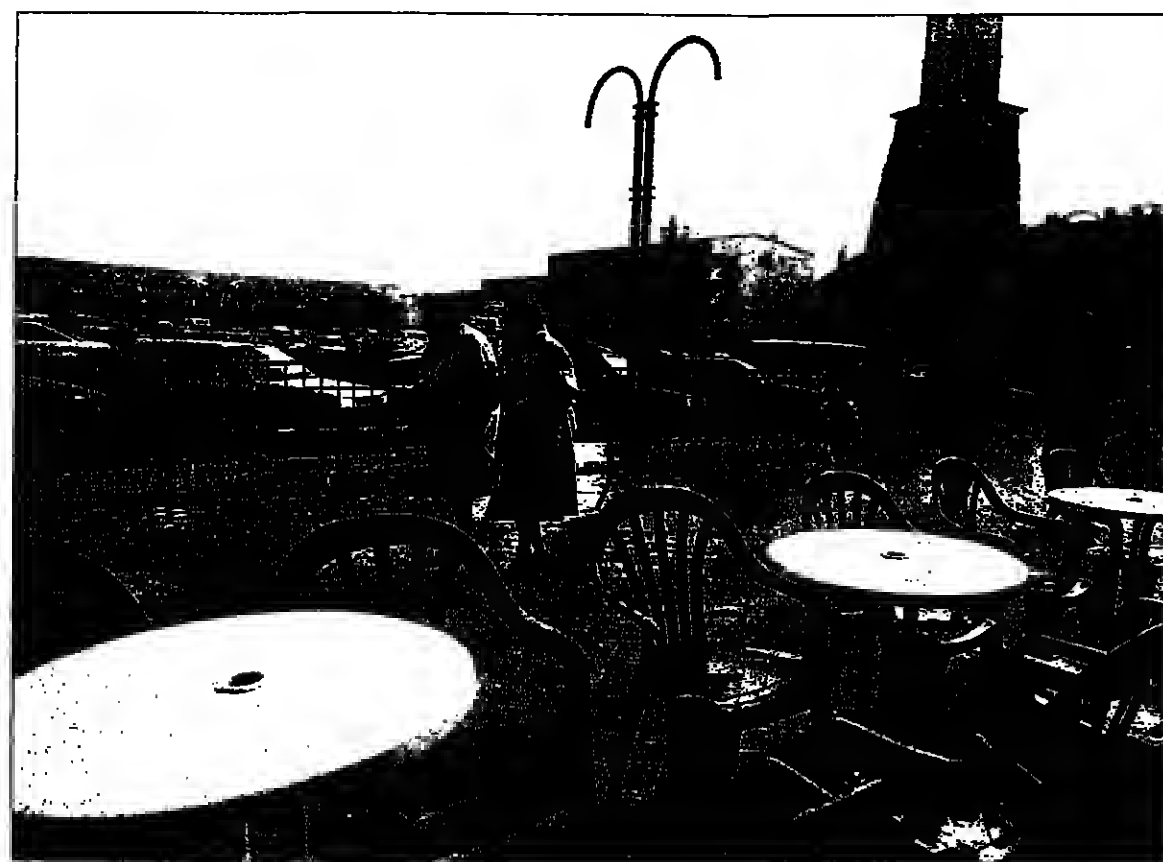


الجمعة 25 نوفمبر 1995

travel france

# Channel hopping for beginners

In Calais Serena Mackesy enjoyed fruits de mer, diabolos menthe, shopping and high camp. Phil, meanwhile, has a hangover



If you're after cheap food, head for rue de la Paix

Photograph: Keith Dobney

It was Phil's 31st birthday the day we went to Calais. I'd never met Phil before and nor, I daresay, had the good burghers of the nearest French town to England, but we all knew well and good about his birthday by the end of the day.

We first spotted Phil and the boys at 7.55am when the train from Dover left London. At 7.55am all I feel up for is strong coffee, but the boys were in full cry already. We muttered something about buffoons and sloped off to the front carriage.

There are several tips one could offer to day-trippers to help them avoid looking too obviously like huffoons. The first and most obvious would be not to turn up in matching sweatshirts emblazoned "Phil - the 31st birthday tour" and singing rugby songs. The second would be to avoid drinking before lunch time. But most of all, don't forget your passport. I know we hear a lot of touchy-feely EC guff about global villages and

open frontiers, but the bottom line is that until we have identity cards, the British are PNG sans passport. Dover ferryport is fully of weepy-looking people turning round to spend the day at the White Cliffs Experience.

Then again, the White Cliffs Experience is glamorous in comparison to the Ferry Experience. The problem with France these days is less the French than the British. We're everywhere, and, boy, are we ugly. Phil and the boys were upmarket in comparison to the rest of us: frizzy perms, shell suits, hot-pant framed cellulite and that endless checking of change. Those who didn't colonise the bar lined the seats and packed down entire bottles of Bailey's Irish Cream during the journey in order not to waste their duty-free allowance.

Calais itself, though, is a delight. There's something so feind about French provincial towns with their permanent "soldes" signs and the faint whiff of

drains in the streets. Buses from the ferry and hovercraft terminals drop you off outside the station. Hang a left from there, and the bureau de tourisme is about three minutes walk on your right. There you can pick up free maps and leaflets. They are all in French. No concession there, at least.

Once you're armed, you can either carry on toward the sea-front or retrace your steps to the streets of shops beyond the town hall. If you're after food, head for the sea, especially if you like shellfish. On the square formed by the rue de Thermes/rue de la Paix is a plethora of bars and taverns that sell moules frites for 45ff. If this weren't France, this would of course be a pretty divine lunch. But there are greater things in store if you spend a bit more.

On rue Jean-Pierre Avron, with a fine view of the container port and the stalls where the little shellfish boats sell their catch, is Le Grand Bleu fish restaurant. The one drawback about this

wonderful place is that rue Jean-Pierre Avron isn't actually on any map you'll have picked up. If, however, you follow the boulevard de la Mer to the foot of the bridge you will find a sign for the restaurant. The road to it leads up through a slightly ominous council estate. Don't be put off.

We had four courses — fruits de mer that brought tears to the eyes, grilled fish in saffron, cheese so a point that it would have gone for our throats the following day, patisserie and a bottle of lovely house plonk — for about £30 each, while the big ships honked their way in and out of harbour.

Meanwhile, in the "old-style English pub" opposite the theatre, the boys were pumping it up. Gangs of blokes don't generally go on day trips for the culture, of course. We, mind you, didn't do a whole lot of ourselves, apart from a quick wander round the Hotel de Ville, a classic of camp embellishment with so many twidly bits that you expected a giant

bride and groom to take a huge knife to it. Then we caught a bus to a hypermarket for camembert and foie gras, and braved a pavement table and a diabolos menthe.

Chacun, as they say, à son goût. In the dark, in the queue for the ferry bus, Phil and the lads looked quite grotesque. They had shed most of their clothes: the beer was warming them inside. It's a funny thing about men: they may get too drunk to stand up, but they can still show the world their tummies. "We've got four people missing. Who's missing?" cried a bloke with a bum bag on his belly. "The guy who started the first round of 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot'. He's not here," came a voice from the back. They sang another round in his memory.

As we disembarked, we bung back and spoke to the driver. "Sorry," said Claire, "I hope it's not always like that." He did that "beaugh" kind of shrug that only the French can accomplish. "Pas tous les jours," he said.



something to declare

## Trouble spots

This week's advice from our man in the Foreign Office

### China

"The Trans-Siberian Railway is noted for smuggling. Search your compartment for contraband before the journey commences and, thereafter, secure the door. "Areas bordering on Siberia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Laos and Burma are poorly policed. Drug smuggling and related crimes are on the increase in Yunnan. The Karakoram and Khunjerab pass routes can be hazardous and lawless."

### Somalia

"Due to the unstable security situation we advise against travel to Somalia."

Foreign Office travel advice: dial 0171-270 4129, check page 564 on BBC2 Ceefax or access the Internet, <http://www.fco.gov.uk/>

## Visitors' book

Darjeeling tourist bureau

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— Simon Bullivant, London

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— Maria Cardoso, Melbourne

There is a hairy animal stealing cakes from our room. It's true!  
— N Bose, Northants

It's a shame to see how every square inch of nature in and around Darjeeling has been converted into a rubbish tip. Queen of the hills? No: Queen of the Waste  
— Illegible, Brussels

## DEPARTURES

Travel companies have begun their battle for the hearts and grants of students. The 1996 STA Travel Guide includes the best of the Independent's Eat Your Way Around the World competition, plus tips on flying, reading and drinking across the globe. STA has also produced *Hip Hops: a Guide to Happening Cities in Europe and America*, which suggests visits to Robert de Niro's bar in New York and Jim Morrison's grave in Paris. Campus Travel is giving away *In Touch: the*

*Rough Guide to Student Travel*, recommending booking a hammock on a trip up the Amazon or tracking gorillas in Uganda. Publications are free from respective branches of these companies.

A second airport has been added to the American blacklist. The FAA has posted signs at all US airports warning that security procedures at Manila's international airport cannot be relied upon. The warning against Lagos airport remains in force.

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# Money

INDEPENDENT WEEKEND • SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 1995

The great thing about investment is that you don't have to know why you are right to be right. Some say the success of the chartists this year is a fluke. But there is no doubt they are having a good run

This is turning out to be a truly bumper year for equity investors on both sides of the Atlantic. With the Dow Jones index hurtling decisively through 5,000 for the first time last week, it now looks likely that Wall Street will produce one of its best returns of all time this year.

The market is up 30 per cent already and there is no sign of an end to the giddy upward momentum. It is more than five years, a record 61 months, since the US market last experienced a 10 per cent correction. The market has risen 1,000 points in barely nine months.

In London, meanwhile, the FTSE 100-share index continues to be pulled along in America's wake, with the Granada/Forte bid the latest in a string of big corporate takeovers that is also helping to keep the market buoyant. Note that the hull market in London is still more of a "blue-chip" phenomenon than anything else. While the Footsie has been reaching new all-time highs, the All-Share index, which includes smaller companies as well, has not risen quite as rapidly.

Bull markets of this sort naturally tend to make everyone happy, but nobody is happier, this year, than the UK's

army of technical analysts. Frequently derided as charlatans by professional investors, this hardy band of enthusiasts, who look for trends in stock market prices, has been having what for them is a quite wonderful year.

While fundamental investors have tended to worry about how high the markets have risen on conventional valuation measures, most chartists have correctly argued that the hull market in both equities and bonds looked set to continue. They spotted early on that the trend this year was a powerful one with plenty of momentum behind it.

In earlier columns, I have highlighted the views of Robin Griffiths, the chartist at the stockbroker James Capel, whose charts and models have helped him to call the markets outstandingly well all this year. He for one will not have been surprised by the latest surge on Wall Street, which he has consistently predicted. He remains fundamentally positive about the short-term outlook for both the UK and US markets.

Given how well chartists generally have been doing, this seemed an opportune week to catch up with someone who can justifiably claim to be one of the doyens in the UK. Until he set up his own boutique in the early 1980s, Brian Marber



JONATHAN DAVIS  
INVESTMENTS

was a broker who regularly topped the chartist section of the annual analyst rankings. Although the bulk of his business now comes from analysing currencies (where technical analysis has long been much more widely accepted than in the stock market), he continues to call the trends across the market spectrum.

A lively and talkative man who spews out ideas in a seemingly endless stream, Mr Marber has no illusions about what technical analysis can and cannot do.

He points cheerfully to research that shows that, in currencies, technical analysis tends to be right half the time whereas fundamental analysis only comes up with the right answer 40 per cent of the time. His philosophy is that it is bet-

ter to be right for the wrong reasons than vice versa. Nobody, in his view, should pretend that calling the market right all the time is practically feasible. The best that anyone can hope to do is to catch the best part of a significant price movement.

Investment is a game of being right more often than not; and the golden rule for chartists is to be brave enough to avoid giving a firm view when the charts have no obvious message.

On Mr Marber's desk is a quotation from Winston Churchill: "There is no sphere of human thought in which it is easier to show superficial cleverness with the appearance of superior wisdom than in discussing questions of currency and exchange." I also liked another aphorism from Mr Churchill that "the potential for loss when gambling on certainties is enormous".

What technical analysis can do, and do very successfully in my experience, is help to spot developing trends and keep track of them. The aim is to keep aboard bull market runs and out of downward trends. For example, Mr Marber claims that nobody who followed technical analysis could or should have suffered the way many professional investors did when bond prices

fell sharply in February 1994. The risk of an extended fall in bond prices was evident from the shape of the charts.

That may well be true. But, in my experience, the trouble with many chartists is that they are often their own worst enemies - too much jargon and bogus science, too little common sense and plain speaking. An irritating trick of the trade is the habit of inserting so many qualifications to any firm view about the market that it ceases to have much value.

Mr Marber is naturally alive to such accusations, having heard them many times before. His weekly faxes and commentaries are not short of the often haffling lingo in which chartists love to indulge. (A sample from last week: "Stochastics were falling and unless bottom reversal candles intervene, last week's top reversal candles have caused trips previously arranged to the upper Bollinger bands to be cancelled".)

But Mr Marber is simplicity and clarity itself about the direction of the main markets themselves. He remains very bullish about both the London and US stock markets, as he is about bonds too. "We all know," he says, that the hull market is mature, that it has risen very sharply and very quickly and that it "won't last

forever". But so far there is no sign of the trend running out of momentum in his daily charts and, until that happens, his conviction is that the hull market is firmly in place.

Mr Marber is also a keen follower of the so-called Coppock indicator, a technique for spotting changes in the direction of markets, named after a devout Episcopalian whose church asked him to work out a formula for deciding when to increase its investment exposure.

Once a Coppock indicator has flashed, it is followed on average by a significant market rise over the next 11 to 14 months. The indicator flashed for the UK market in April this year and, if history is any guide, it will now carry the market up to around the 4,200 level by next summer.

You don't believe any of this? A surprising number of investors do and it pays to keep an open mind in this game. As Mr Marber says, the great thing about investment is that you don't have to know why you are right to be right. Some will say that the success of the chartists this year is a fluke. But there is no doubt they are having a good run; and if the hull market in London and New York continues for much longer, they will be vindicated still further.



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## The pick of the pension plans

The difference in pay-out on identical investments can be 50 per cent. By Clifford German

The fact that the past is no real guide to the future is the single most important fact of life in personal finance. It is not much consolation, however, in choosing a personal pension, where the difference in pay-out on an identical investment can easily be 50 per cent and you might not find out until it is too late to change your mind.

To help guide investors looking for unit-linked pension plans, actuaries Bacon & Woodrow (which does not recommend with-profits pension plans to clients) has subjected 180 funds with a full five-year record to a series of tests.

By awarding points for good

performance in each three-month period, the 90 funds that had improved the value of the fund least were eliminated.

The survivors were tested again to select those that appeared in the top two quartiles most frequently and in the bottom quartile least often, which eliminated another 32 funds. A third screening eliminated 18 funds whose performance was most volatile.

The remaining 40 were ranked according to their performance in each quarter and over a 12-month moving average. Another four funds were eliminated for showing a declining performance trend.

This eliminated a further 18 funds. The remaining 18 were tested for the effect of their

charging structures, based on assumptions drawn up by Bacon & Woodrow. The results show significant differences, with charges on the dearest funds twice those of the cheapest. Disclosure has already shifted the emphasis away from initial commission charges to level commission charges. But nil-commission policies, where the intermediary charges a fee for advice rather than a commission, are the best. Over 20 years, the fund would be 11 per cent greater in a nil-commission policy, assuming investment performances were the same.

The results still varied considerably between providers and different types of pension plans and some undisclosed charges of up to 0.5 per cent a year may remain. For recurring single premium policies, however, Standard Life, Norwich Union and Suo Life came out cheapest. For transfer payments, Standard Life and Norwich Union outperformed the rest. Equitable Life dominated individual rebate-only plans, and Norwich Union, Standard Life, Equitable Life and Gartmore featured in the regular contributions category.

The implications of performance-testing, backed by information of charging structures

required by the new disclosure rules, will increase the competition between pension providers. Charges are already falling, according to B&W partner Andrew Warwick-Thompson, but providers have had to reduce administration and distribution charges in order to do that.

That can only be done by investing in powerful and expensive computer systems, which will concentrate the personal pensions market in the hands of a small strong elite. Financial advisers will also lose business, and within 10 years there will be few small local firms of advisers.

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## How to share the cost of care? New solutions for an age-old problem

By Clifford German



Golden oldies? The Budget is expected to ease worries about the cost of long-term care

Three fears haunt floating voters, and all focus on the possible loss of the family home. Homes are very much at risk if the breadwinner loses his or her job and has no mortgage protection insurance. They are at risk if the owner has negative equity and cannot move because the existing mortgage cannot be redeemed. And the message is steadily sinking in that homes and life savings are at risk if elderly owners need professional nursing care.

In some ways the last is the most distressing of the three worries because local authorities will only now pay the full cost of care once the individual's assets have been reduced to £8,000.

Professional nursing care at home for two hours a day can cost up to £6,500 a year, and a place in a residential home can cost anything from £12,000 to £20,000 a year per person, so charges can quickly swallow a lifetime's savings and the family home, leaving next to nothing for the children to inherit.

With this in mind the Chancellor is expected to introduce measures next week to try and ease the situation. The simplest and most immediate reform would be to increase the £8,000 threshold so that anyone needing care could keep a bigger nest-egg and still qualify for state help.

Measures to allow individuals to divert some of their pension funds to pay for nursing care may also be put forward.

An earlier attempt to offer a combined policy was launched by Cannon Assurance in 1991, allowing policyholders, subject to passing a medical examination, to surrender 10 per cent of their pension at retirement in return for a three or fourfold increase in pension if they subsequently needed professional care at home or in a nursing home. It was squashed in 1993 by the Treasury, but a change of heart could well be coming.

That, however, would not be enough to solve the wider problem of funding long-term care. Too few people have a big enough pension pot to provide a comfortable retirement, without tapping it for other purposes.

Only one man in four and

one woman in three presently ends up needing long-term health care, only one in six ends up in a home, and insurance from the five main providers, Commercial Union, PPP Lifecare, Eagle Star Life, Prime Health and Scottish Equitable European, is not exactly cheap.

Taking out a deluxe policy to provide an extra £10,000 a year for long-term health care with Commercial Union will cost £43 a month or a single premium of £4,750 for a 55-year-old male, and £48 a month or £5,400 for a 55-year-old female.

Not everyone can claim. Deluxe policies will only pay out if, in the judgement of the claimant's doctor, the individual fails at least two out of six tests: the ability to wash, dress, and feed oneself, get in and out of bed, move around on a level surface and use the toilet. Standard policies pay out on three tests.

If a claim is recognised, most policies will offer home help care first, with a place in a nursing home reserved for those who have failed more of the six tests.

Some existing policies also review premiums each year so that anyone on fixed income and in deteriorating health might well find that they can no longer afford to maintain their cover just when their need is increasing. To meet this problem, CU has just introduced guaranteed benefit levels for single-premium contributions on all new plans sold to over 65s.

With an ageing population, longer-term tax incentives on premiums may be needed to promote more private provision for future needs, although the Treasury presently takes the view that long-term health-care benefits are not taxable so premiums should not qualify for tax relief.

Other suggested stopgaps include exempting family homes from the £8,000 ceiling, the state paying the cost of nursing care, leaving individuals to fund residential charges, and private insurance policies funded equally by the Government and the individual.

The most interesting short-term option being promoted by Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, and Peter Gatenby, the top

actuary at PPP Lifecare, would be free nursing home care for anyone who has paid for the first three years of care from their own resources.

Limiting the individual's liability to pay to three years would enable providers of long-term health care to reduce the premiums by as much as 30 per cent, while the Government's financial commitment would be limited by the hard fact that the life

expectancy of men once they go into a home is not much more than three years, although women tend to survive longer.

The other main weakness of existing long-term health care plans has been the specialised nature of the product. If the individual dies before qualifying for care, there is no benefit at all.

Individuals who would consider long-term health care a

waste of money might well go for a policy that combined insurance with an investment plan that guaranteed a capital sum to the estate if the insurance element was not drawn.

Immediately after the Budget expect to see the first of a new breed of investment-linked insurance plans to try and encourage people to take up long-term health care. If the Chancellor has smoothed the path, so much the better.

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## money

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Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
<b>MORTGAGES</b>					
<b>Fixed rates</b>					
Huckley & Rugby Chelsea BS	0800 774499	0.75 to 1/12/96	70	£250	3 yrs unemployment ins
Chelsea BS	01242 271441	4.74 to 1/2/98	80	£195	Free redundancy ins to 31/12/96
Lambeth BS	0800 225221	7.44 to 1/1/01	95	£250	0.5% of advance
<b>Variable rates</b>					
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	1.99 to 1/2/97	90	—	Refund valuation fee
Greenwich BS	0181 858 8212	4.49 for 2 yrs	95	—	1st 5 yrs: discount reclaimed
National Counties	01372 742211	6.49 for 5 yrs	70	—	1st 5 yrs: individually determined
<b>First time buyers fixed rates</b>					
Bristol & West BS	0800 100117	0.95 to 30/11/96	90	£275	To 30/11/00: Smiths interest
Skypton BS	01756 700500	6.49 to 31/1/99	95	—	Free unemployment ins
Cheshire BS	0800 243278	7.49 to 1/1/01	90	—	£300 cash rebate
<b>First time buyers variable rates</b>					
Scarthorpe BS	0800 590547	1.79 for 1 yr	95	—	£150 cashback
Halfax BS	Local branch	4.99 to 30/11/97	90	—	Free val, £250 cashback
Greenwich BS	0181 858 8212	5.49 for 3 yrs	95	—	1st 5 yrs: discount reclaimed

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Telephone	APR	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 for 3 years)
<b>Unsecured</b>		
Midland Bank	0800 180180	15.40
N&P BS	0800 808080	15.50
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	16.20
<b>Secured</b>		
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	8.80
Royal 8 of Scotland	Via branch	9.80
First Direct	0800 242424	10.30

## OVERDRAFTS

Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm	Unauthorised % pm
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76
Alliance & Leicester BS	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.79

## CREDIT CARDS

Telephone	Card	Min income	Rate pm %	APR %	Annual fee
<b>Standard</b>					
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.98C	12.40
Courts & Co	0171 753 1718	Visa	—	0.8875	13.2
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.00	14.60
<b>Gold cards</b>					
Co-operative Bank	0345 212121	Visa	£20,000	0.5625M	11.42
Royal 8 of Scotland	01702 362880	Visa	£20,000	1.05	14.50
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Visa	£20,000	1.14	15.90

## STORE CARDS

Telephone	Payment by direct debit	Payment by other methods
John Lewis	Local store	—
Marks & Spencer	01244 681681	1.90A
Seas	Via store	1.94

APR Annualised percentage rate  
A 1.58% (20.6% APR) for 0% to 1% EJK  
G Annual rate 5% above R Fleming base rate  
M Equivalent to base rate  
All rates subject to change without notice

## Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>INSTANT ACCESS</b>					
Portman BS	01202 232444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	5.00
Skipton BS	01756 086111	Instant	Instant	£2,000	5.60
Co-operative Bank	0345 252000	Instant	Instant	£5,000	5.90
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Instant	Instant	£20,000	6.10

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS</b>					
Britannia BS	01538 392808	Capital Trust	Postal	£2,000	5.60
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0113 243 8292	Albion	Postal	£10,000	6.00
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Go Direct	Postal	£20,000	6.10
B'ham Midshires BS	0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£25,000	6.20

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>NOTICE ACCOUNTS &amp; BONDS</b>					
Nottingham BS	0115 948 1444	Postmark	7 day P	£2,500	5.90
Scarthorpe BS	0800 590578	Scarthorpe 50	50 day	£1,000	6.40
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Postal 90	90 day P	£10,000	6.80
Halifax BS	Local branch	Special Reserve	1 year bond	£10,000	6.90

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>MONTHLY INTEREST</b>					
Co-operative Bank	0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.90
Portman BS	01202 232444	Monthly Interest	1 month	£20,000	6.30
Scarthorpe BS	0800 590578	Scarthorpe 50	50 day	£1,000	6.40
Leopold Joseph & Sons	0171 588 2323	40 Day Notice	40 day	£10,000	6.9875

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>FIXED RATE BONDS</b>					
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Investment Certs	1 yr bond	£1,000	6.80F
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Investment Certs	2 yr bond	£1,000	6.80F
B'ham Midshires BS	0645 720721	Quantum Fund	3 yr bond	£5,000	7.25F
B'ham Midshires BS	0645 720721	Millennium Bond	4 yr bond	£5,000	7.75F

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>TESSAS (Tax Efficient Savings Accounts)</b>					
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	5 year	£8,575	7.50 F	Year
Allied Trust Bank	0171 626 0679	5 year	£9,000	7.50	Year
Cheltenham & Gloucester	0800 717055	5 year	£3,000	7.25	Year
Mellor Mowbray BS	01564 63937	5 year	£1	7.10	Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>					
Financial Assurance	0181 480 9157	1 year	£5,000	4.90F	Year
Premium Life	01444 458721	2 year	£1,000	5.50F	Year
Swiss Life	01732 582000	3 year	£5,000	5.70F	Year
Pennine Life	01444 458721	4 year	£1,000	5.80F	Year
Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 9007	5 year	£3,000	6.45F	Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>OFFSHORE (Low tax)</b>					
Co-operative Bank	01481 710527	Pathfinder Worldwide	Instant	£5,000	6.00
Newcastle Bank, Gbr	00 350 76168	Nov 90 O'share	90 day	£25,000	6.85
Alliance & Leicester BS	01624 663566	Investment Bond	1 yr bond	£10,000	7.00
B'ham Midshires BS	01481 700880	Fixed Account	31.1.99	£5,000	7.25F

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS (Government &amp; Local)</b>					
Investment Accounts	1 month	£20	£20	5.25	Year
			£500	5.75	Year
			£25,000	6.00	Year
			£2,000	6.50	Month
			£25,000	6.75	Month
			£100	7.75 F	Maturity
			£1,000	6.40 F	Year
			£20,000	6.80 F	Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>Income Bonds</b>					
Capital Bonds	Series 1	5 year	£100	7.75 F	Maturity
First Option Bonds	12 month	£1,000	£1,000	6.40 F	Year
		£20,000	£20,000	6.80 F	Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>Pensioner's Guaranteed Income Bond</b>					
NS Certificates (tax-free)	Series 2	5 year	£500	7.50 F	Month
42nd issue					
8th Index linked		5 year	£100	5.85 F	Maturity
Children's Bond	Issue G	5 year	£100	3.00 + RPI	Maturity
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FEAR OF FINANCE  
Clifford German

There is little for the personal investor and saver to do in advance of the Budget these days, but trying to second-guess the Chancellor's plans is an irresistible temptation. I expect to see income tax cuts phased over the next three years to create maximum political impact, starting with a widening of the 20p tax band effective next April.

If any tax is going to be abolished I would prefer capital gains tax to be merged into income tax. This would mean that realised short-term gains could be taxed as income, medium-term gains could be averaged over the time they were made, and long-term gains — made over a period of maybe five years or more — could be exempt altogether.

It might be difficult to prevent smart accountants swapping short-term taxable gains into long-term exempt gains, but not impossible to do so, perhaps by ensuring that realised short-term gains could not be offset and only losses could be carried forward.

Tax concessions may well be appropriate to encourage middle-aged earners to put more of their income into pension contributions. The present rule allowing those aged 35 to put away 17.5 per cent of earned income tax-free, rising to 40 per cent for those over 60, is no longer enough to ensure that individuals put away enough to balance the combined effects of earlier retirement, intermittent employment and shrinking state pensions.

Something urgently needs to be done to persuade individuals to take out insurance to cover long-term health care, to help pay for nursing care at home or for a place in a nursing home. The Treasury

takes the view that successful claims on such policies are not taxed so there is no case for tax relief on premiums but without an incentive many people may be tempted to take a chance that such insurance will not be needed. I would also hope to see more tax concessions to encourage mature children to look after elderly parents themselves.

It is hard to see how the Chancellor could increase still further the tax-free rewards for regular savings and investment. Tessa's, Peps, corporate bond Peps and venture capital trusts offer a wide range of risks and rewards. But interest rates have halved since Tessa's were introduced in 1991, and there is likely to be a substantial outflow of funds when the originals start to mature in the new year. At the very least the length of time Tessa's have to be held to attain tax-free status needs cutting from five to three years.

It is also time to do something for the National Savings movement, which otherwise is in danger of withering on the vine. If the Government seriously wants to stay competitive with the Lottery the Chancellor should increase the national interest it pays into the premium bond prize funds in order to increase the number of prizes in the monthly draw.

I still believe the Chancellor will miss an important political trick if he does nothing to help the housing market, but the best property buyers can realistically hope for is the temporary or permanent abolition of stamp duty on houses under £100,000, which may or may not be enough to reverse the ominous drop in turnover in the housing market.

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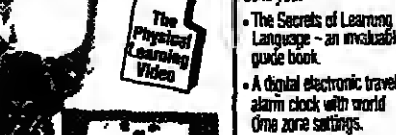
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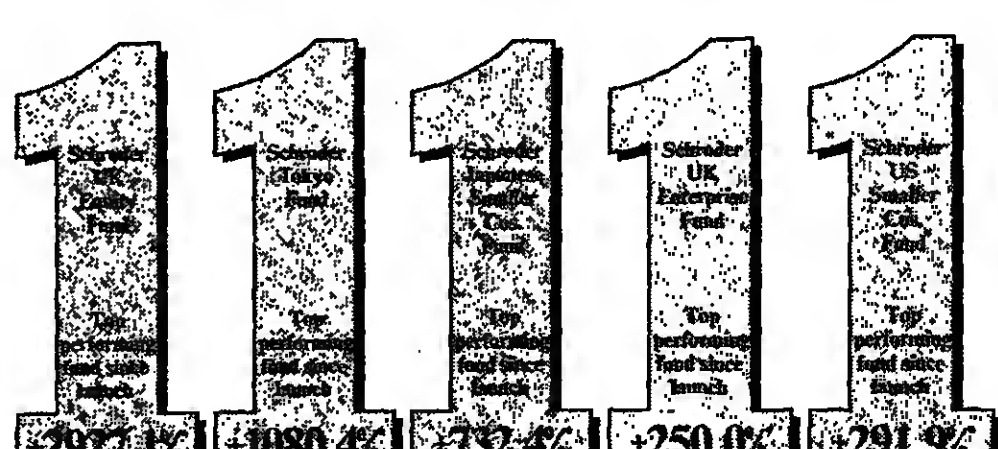
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Neil Davidson discovered the hard way that a storm is more than heavy rain

## What happens when the ceiling falls in?

Household insurance may be less comprehensive than you expect. By Paul Gosling

In June this year the ceiling of Neil Davidson's Glasgow flat fell in. The property was well maintained, there had been no floods in the building that he knew of, and there was no obvious cause. Mr Davidson assumed that his insurance policy would meet the repair cost, especially when a survey commissioned by him concluded that the damage was caused by a leak from the roof.

Sadly for Mr Davidson, he found the protection of insurance to be less comprehensive than he assumed. A loss adjuster brought in by the insurer, Independent Insurance, concluded that there was no proof that the collapse had actually been caused by a storm or damage to the roof, and the claim was rejected. The loss adjuster had examined weather

records for June and there had been no storms registered that, in his view, would have caused the collapse.

Independent Insurance, when rejecting the claim, wrote: "The burden of proof of loss by a peril as described in the policy rests firmly with the policyholder and unless they discharge that proof then there are no grounds upon which to meet a claim under the policy." In plain English the policyholder has to prove the cause and effect for a claim to be valid.

Mr Davidson's father, Dr Campbell Davidson, has now referred the case to the insurance ombudsman, saying that where there is doubt the insurer should accept liability. "While one can sympathise with insurance companies," Dr Davidson says, "one also has to acknowl-

edge that claiming appears to be a particularly difficult procedure." He says it is unfair that the onus of proof should be on the claimant, particularly when they are refused access to the loss adjuster's report.

Dr Davidson says that he will in future consider more carefully what risks are included in a policy, and what perils are excluded. He also believes there should be a legal requirement on insurers to release the contents of any survey commissioned by them.

Malcolm Talling, spokesman for the Association of British Insurers, says this is often what happens. "There is no legal obligation to show the loss adjuster's report as it is paid for by the insurer. A surveyor's report is slightly different. If the insured has his own report and

there is any conflict it is not unusual to show the insured any conflicting information."

Mr Talling says that in practice it is usually up to the insurer to disprove that a claim was valid. Most claims are clear, he says, but one exception to this is with water penetration, for which it can be difficult to find the cause.

"You can end up with one expert saying one thing, and another the other, which goes to arbitration by the insurance ombudsman. That is a recognised arbitration system, provided the insurer is a member of the scheme, which most are."

Dr Davidson has now referred the dispute to the insurance ombudsman, and a spokeswoman for Independent Insurance said: "That is the complaints procedure which

should have been followed in the first place."

Michael Lovegrove, a spokesman for the insurance ombudsman, said: "The onus of proof lies with the policyholder. Water damage is a hoary old chestnut. We get lots of claims over this. The peril insured is storm. There is no precise legal definition of what constitutes a storm, but there is legal guidance, and it is more than just heavy rain."

"You often get a roof worn out, especially flat roofs, and it rains and gets damp and the insurer says there is no evidence of storm damage. When we look at this we do want to look at meteorological records; there has to be a specific storm on a specific day. Sometimes we do find in favour of the policyholder."

An insurer is also entirely justified in withholding the loss adjuster's report and survey, says Mr Lovegrove, since it is commissioned and paid for by the insurer.

"We would look at the policyholder's own report and survey. If we have doubts we may commission a report ourselves. This applies to any case..." he said.

## New lease of life

How the Leasehold Reform Act can be used to your advantage. By Ian Hunter

Dying (and selling) a leasehold flat can be a difficult task, particularly if lending institutions believe it to be a wasting asset not suitable for a mortgage.

Sellers can make their flats more attractive, however, by extending the lease before putting them on the market. The Leasehold Reform (Housing and Urban Development) Act 1993 gives leaseholders the right to extend their lease terms. To date, it has not proved to be the nightmare freeholders feared or the god-send for which leaseholders prayed.

Nationwide Building Society insists that before a mortgage is granted, the lease should have at least 30 years to run after the end of the mortgage term. Most other lending institutions have similar requirements. Abbey National will consider granting a mortgage on leases in central London that have a shorter term.

The legal position is that when the lease comes to an end, the property reverts to the landlord, although the option is open to the tenant to negotiate an extension.

The Leasehold Reform (Housing and Urban Development) Act 1993 provides, subject to the satisfaction of certain criteria, tenants of flats with leases of more than 21 years to run with the statutory right to a 90-year lease extension. Broadly, excluded flats are those owned by charitable housing trusts and properties where the landlord has been resident for at least 12 months and there are four or less individual flats in the building.

Tenants wishing to apply for a lease extension must serve notice on the landlord suggesting a premium in return for the lease extension. The landlord will serve a counter-notice either accepting the proposal or setting out counter-proposals. If the parties cannot agree a price, the matter will be referred to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal.

The premium agreed is paid to the landlord together with his professional fees, which usually include the services of a surveyor and a solicitor. Andrew Scott, a surveyor and partner with London surveyors Lane Fox, explains: "The premium paid should represent the value by which the landlord's interest is reduced, plus the landlord's share of the so-called marriage value. The marriage value is the increase in the value of the flat following the lease extension. The freeholder is entitled to at least 50 per cent of this by way of a premium."

Mr Scott adds: "In some cases, landlords have been able to drag

matters out in order to deter tenants from using this procedure. As tenants are liable to pay the landlord's professional fees if the landlord can drag matters out by appealing decisions and challenging the tenant at every juncture, there is a hope that the rising professional costs will deter tenants from proceeding. Landlords of large blocks of flats will often fight the first tenant who seeks a lease extension particularly hard. If they can establish a high premium for the lease extension, this will be used as a precedent for any other tenants who may subsequently submit an application."

Even if a leaseholder does not have a statutory right to a lease extension because the terms of the 1993 Act are not satisfied, it may still be in the landlord's interest to negotiate.

Part I of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 gives a tenant right of continued occupation after the expiry of the lease. The continued occupation may not give the landlord a reasonable yield on his investment and, therefore, he may be prepared to negotiate a lease extension.

Any tenant seeking to negotiate a lease extension should first establish the average term of leases in the area in order to determine whether paying for an extension is a cost-effective exercise. Madeline Simpson, an estate agent with London firm Sebastians, explains: "It may be perfectly sensible to buy a property with a 36-year lease in Belgravia as this is characteristic for the area. To chase a lease of the same length in other parts of London may be extremely unwise."

Ms Simpson says that in Fulham, west London, many clients will not consider a property with a lease life of less than 75 years. "We have one two-bedroom flat valued at £120,000 with 76 years left to run. The freeholder wants £7,000 in order to extend the lease term to 99 years," she says.

"In other cases the landlord is just not interested in negotiating. One client has a fantastic flat which, because it has less than 25 years to run, is simply unmarketable. The problem is the landlord lives in the flat above and does not want to grant an extension and the tenant does not have a statutory right to a lease extension."

Carolynn Davis, a property specialist with City law firm Druce & Atke, comments: "If a landlord is prepared to grant a lease extension, the tenant should use the opportunity to address any areas of contention, such as repairing covenants and service charges."

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